# Ping says he's thinking of 2004 but will let party decide

STORY ON PAGE A2

## Officials see 4-percent growth in first quarter

**By Clarissa S. Batino and Doris C. Dumlao**

THE PHILIPPINE economy is expected to grow by as much as 4 percent in the first quarter of this year despite the ballooning budget deficit, according to government officials.

"I believe the GDP (gross domestic

OFFICIALS/ A19

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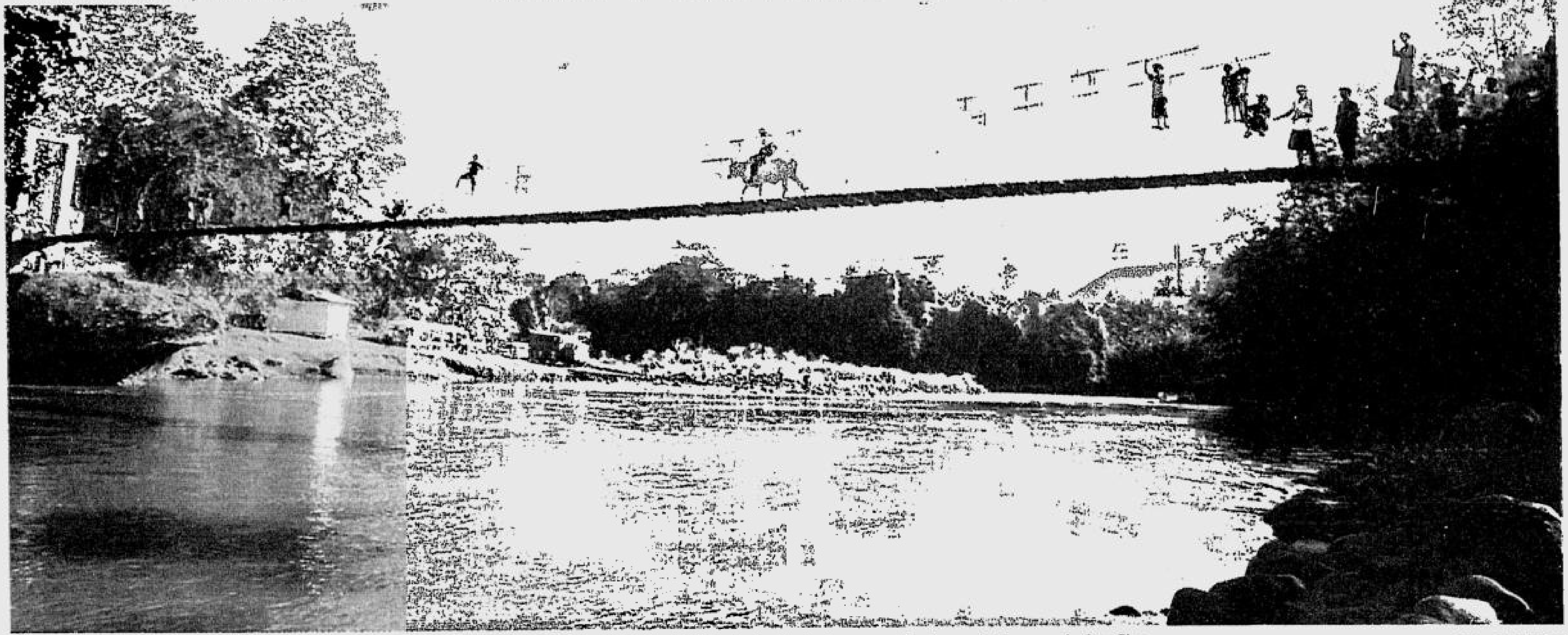

WEALTH OF WONDERS: Wow! Wonders never cease in this many-splendored country like this hanging bridge in Barangay Mambuaya in Cagayan de Oro City. VAL HANDUMON

# 'All the way with GMA'

## *Fund-raising chairman is Mikey's future father-in-law*

**By Norman Bordadora and Juliet L. Javellana**

**PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's former party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), yesterday declared it would go "All the way with GMA" in 2004 and elected her son's future father-in-law among its new officers.**

The party is expected to tap the extensive connections of businessman Herman Montenegro—whose daughter Angela is the fiancee of the First Couple's elder son, Pampanga Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo—for the task of raising the funds to ensure Ms Macapagal's victory in the coming presidential election.

With a campaign slogan in place, speculations are flying as to Ms Macapagal's running mate. Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri ticked off a short list of possible contenders: Senate President Franklin Drilon, Sen. Robert Barbers, Education Secretary Raul Roco and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas.

Zubiri said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER that Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. were among the possible candidates of the ruling Lakas party. But Zubiri said he had talked with the Speaker, who said he would not run "for any national position."

De Venecia himself announced in a press conference last month that he would not seek a higher office anymore, and that his candidate for president in 2004 was Ms Macapagal.

ALL/A18

DENNIS SABANGAN

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF and her new chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Gen. Roy A. Cimatu, whom she cited for recovering 30 MILF camps two years ago including Camp Abubakar, the MILF's military headquarters.

## *Cracking good time was had by all*

**By TJ Burgonio**

TURNOVER rites for the incoming and the outgoing chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines ***(Story on Page A7)*** are made of sentimental stuff, often heartbreaking. But this was ridiculous.

Chair-breaking marred the solemnity of the change of command from Gen. Diomedio Villanueva to Gen. Roy A. Cimatu yesterday at the Camp Aguinaldo grandstand.

While Cimatu, the 29th AFP chief of staff, was delivering his speech, a cracking sound pierced the air.

The plastic monobloc chair where Manila Rep. Harry Angpin sat beside Filipino and foreign dignitaries gave way under his weight.

Shortly after, the same sound was heard. A leg of another plastic chair had snapped, dumping a Filipino general on the floor.

This cracked up the audience which

CRACKING/ A7

## Iloilo science teacher wins int'l award for excellence

**By Leo Magno**

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—Once more, Filipinos have proven that they, indeed, are world class.

A Filipino teacher who opted to teach science to high school students in Iloilo although she could have easily gotten a higher-paying job and four ingenious Filipino teenagers bagged top awards at an international science and engineering fair here last Friday.

Josette Talamera Biyo, who teaches science research at the Philippine Science High School Western Visayas in Iloilo City, was awarded the Intel Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award during the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2002 (Isef 2002).

She is the first Asian teacher to win the award since its inception in 1997.

Biyo bested four other finalists from China and the United States and 90 other participants worldwide in the field of science and technology teach-

ILOILO/A19

## The true love story of a man of the cloth

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

"I HAVE forgiven him," a 30-year-old woman referred to a missionary of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) who got her pregnant two and a half years ago.

"I'm happy now. I feel I've become a much stronger Christian after all the troubles. My son and I drop by the church almost every day," she said.

Stel (not her real name), a businesswoman from Muntinlupa City, is not seeking financial support from the father of her 2-year-old son, more so, to scandalize him.

"I just want other women to learn from my experience for it helped me a lot. I have come to terms with my experience. It has made me even stronger," she told the INQUIRER.

This is why Stel decided to come out

THE TRUE/ A18

### MARCOS MILLIONS

## GMA urged to bring case to Swiss president

**By Donna S. Cueto**

*(Last of a series)*

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo should make a "direct appeal" to Swiss President Moritz Leuenberger for information on other hidden Marcos funds in Switzerland.

This was the recommendation made by Dr. David Chaikin, a former senior fraud officer of the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat and a former senior assistant secretary to the Australian Attorney General's department handling mutual assistance.

In a letter to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo dated March 17, 2002, Chaikin said that given the "high-level cover-up in Switzerland and Liechtenstein" concerning the Marcos assets, the "only possible way of short-cutting the system is for President Macapagal-Arroyo to take a direct interest in this matter."

There has been no response from Malacañang so far.

Madame Z, the Canadian-Welsh barrister who once worked for KPMG Fides, had earlier provided information that no less than Liechtenstein royalty and politicians, top-level bankers, and the presidents of Swiss and Liechtenstein fiduciaries and trust firms were involved.

Chaikin said in the letter that "it would be self-defeating to merely make an international mutual assistance request" if Dr. Dieter Jann of the Zurich District Attorney's office would deal with the request.

He cited "Jann's connections to Peter Cosandey and the allegations of Madame Z concerning Cosandey's employers."

Chaikin recommended that Ms Macapagal examine the evidence on

GMA/A18

## *Second* FRONT PAGE

HAHANAPIN NA!

# Ping admits thinking about 2004

**By Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*
**and TJ Burgonio and Dona Z. Pazzibugan**
*Manila*

**BAGUIO CITY—Supt. Rafael Cardeño might have a long wait before surfacing to answer charges in the Baron Cervantes killing, after Sen. Panfilo Lacson left it to his political party to decide if he would be its presidential candidate in 2004.**

Cardeño's brother, Reynaldo, a lawyer, had said his sibling had told him he was not coming out to face charges in the Cervantes case "until Ping (Lacson's nickname) is president."

Superintendent Cardeño was tagged as the mastermind in the shooting to death of Cervantes last New Year's Eve in Las Piñas City by the suspected triggerman who was arrested in Pangasinan last Saturday, ex-Marine Sgt. Joseph Mostrales.

Lacson is a member of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) under which he ran for senator and won in 2001, in a coalition with the opposition Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) associated with ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Before that, Lacson was director general of the Philippine National Police, a controversial appointment made by Estrada, his known patron.

Lacson was in this city to induct the officers of the Baguio Press Club yesterday.

He said he has not seen Cardeño since he left the PNP in January last year, the same time Estrada was forced to vacate Malacañang in the face of a popular people's uprising.

"(Cardeño) has not contacted me. I was just informed by a friend that there was this statement from his brother. If he gets in touch with me, I will convince him to face the accusation," Lacson said.

But he was candid about Cardeño's "presidential forecast."

"I've been asked that question several times. I would be a hypocrite if I told you I'm not thinking (about) it. But it's too early to decide on it. There's the party that should decide (who will be the) standard bearer," Lacson told the INQUIRER.

The PNP, meanwhile, said it will press ahead with the hunt for Cardeño, even though his lawyer has questioned its legality.

Director General Leandro Mendoza said the police have legal grounds to mount a manhunt for Cardeño, who is facing criminal charges for allegedly masterminding the killing of Cervantes and administrative charges for going Awol.

"It's up to the investigators to look for him because he has to answer some questions in connection with this case. He also has to report to his immediate superior—we have to account for him," Mendoza said.

Cardeño, chair of the Young Officers' Union, an outspoken militant group within the military establishment, has not reported for duty since being transferred from the Land Transportation Office in Quezon City to the Western Visayas police office in October last year.

His lawyer, Homobono Adaza, who turned up at Camp Crame on Friday to deliver a complaint letter to Mendoza, threatened to file charges against police officials if they did not call off the manhunt.

The hunt, he argued, violated his client's constitutional rights as well as exposed him to the risk of being shot by arresting agents.

"Why should they order a manhunt? There's no pending case against him," Adaza said.

Cervantes, erstwhile YOU spokesperson, was ordered killed by Cardeño, according to Mostrales, because he had become a liability to the organization.

Cardeño, Mostrales alleged, was mad at Cervantes for blowing the whistle on a purported plot by certain military officers to mount a coup against the government of President Macapagal- Arroyo.

Police said murder charges will be filed on Monday against Cardeño, Mostrales, Jaime Centeno—who was arrested in Antipolo City on Tuesday and was an alleged accomplice of Mostrales—and four others whose identities were withheld in connection with Cervantes' killing.

Malacañang, in the meantime, has guaranteed Cardeño will receive "due process and humane treatment" when he surfaces to answer the charges.

This after Reynaldo Cardeño had said the hunt for his brother was nothing more than "political persecution" and he would rather wait for a Lacson administration before surrendering.

"That's unfortunate. They shouldn't prejudge the administration," said Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. yesterday in reaction to Reynaldo's statement.

"This administration will guarantee him (Supt. Cardeño) due process and humane treatment. He doesn't have to fear any violation of his human rights," Afable said.

Asked if the Palace would guarantee Cardeño's safety, Afable said, "Yes. He shouldn't worry because the justice system will take care of that."

# 2 Manuela malls face foreclosure

**By Raul C. Dancel**

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands has started foreclosure proceedings against two shopping malls over debts amounting to P4.17 billion which, it says, have not been paid in more than five years.

BPI also alleges that Manuela Corp., owner of the two malls and one of the country's biggest shopping mall developers, has "sanitized" its financial statements since 1997.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER show that the bank paid a Mandaluyong court a filing fee of P41.8 million to foreclose Starmall in Mandaluyong and Metropolis Star in Muntinlupa.

On the other hand, Manuela's lawyers have filed a petition for rehabilitation "to settle its obligations in an orderly manner." The petition was filed with the Regional Trial Court of Las Piñas, hometown of the property owner, former Mayor Rosalino C. Riguera.

Riguera is the uncle of Rep. Cynthia Villar, wife of Sen. Manuel Villar, who was earlier reported as a major shareholder of Manuela. The senator denies this, saying the developer in fact owes him money.

### Insolvency irreversible

BPI says Manuela is unlikely to make enough money to pay up over the next 10 years, because the developer's insolvency is "irreversible." Therefore, the bank maintains, rehabilitation is "not realistically feasible."

According to its own investigation, BPI says, Manuela has been bloating its assets, and understating its liabilities.

Aside from Starmall and Metropolis Mall, Manuela owns M Star One and M Star, both located in Las Piñas; and the unfinished Pacific Mall at the corner of Edsa and Shaw Boulevard. Manuela's petition with the Las Piñas RTC places the value of its total assets at P12.43 billion as of December 2001, "or 55 percent higher than its total obligations."

The company attributes its financial problems to the "continuing impact of the Asian financial crisis." It also cites physical restraints, mainly the construction of the Edsa-Shaw Boulevard flyover and the MRT, on account of which Starmall, its prime cash generator, "suffered loss of customer traffic."

A spokesperson for the company says that, in spite of this, Manuela "has been acting in good faith, and has exerted earnest efforts to avert its worsening financial problems."

BPI is unmoved, and instead questions Manuela's "highly speculative" claims. The bank says its own appraisal and of those of two other creditors—Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and Allied Banking Corp.—peg Manuela's assets at no more than P4.23 billion.

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# Ramos, 9th Congress equally guilty for IPP deals–Joker

**By Cynthia D. Balana**

SEN. Joker Arroyo yesterday said that former President Fidel Ramos and the Ninth Congress were equally guilty for the approval of the scandalous Independent Power Producers (IPP) contracts which resulted in increased electricity bills of consumers.

Arroyo said that he voted against the Electric Power Crisis Act of 1993 when it was being deliberated in Congress. The law was passed overwhelmingly by legislators.

This law, he said, gave birth to the overpriced IPP plants and the "humongous" Power Purchase Adjustment (PPA) charges.

Arroyo said that Ramos may appear before a Senate inquiry on how he implemented the Power Crisis Act as suggested by minority senators in order to clear his name.

"What should be a matter of concern is that President Ramos' voluntary appearance should not constitute a precedent that former presidents could be freely summoned by Congress to explain their actuations while in office," Arroyo pointed out.

"To do so would wreck and paralyze our presidential system," he said.

Arroyo also said that a sitting president should think a hundred times before rendering a decision on any matter.

He said that a former president can always be called by Congress to account for his conduct after he steps down from office.

"There lies the problem. Paralysis in government will ensue. Are we promoting a system where presidents will be accountable in the future while legislators are not?" Arroyo asked.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said that Ramos has a lot of explaining to do with respect to the alleged misuse of emergency powers in IPP contracts.

He said it was not right to say that for Arroyo to say that legislators were restrained from asking Ramos to account for the IPP contracts because it was Congress which granted him emergency powers to solve the power crisis in the early 1990s.

Pimentel stressed that the emergency powers given to Ramos under the law were intended to fast-track the construction of power generating plants.

But this, he said, did not give Ramos the license to accept contractual terms and conditions that were grossly disadvantageous to the government and inimical to the public interest.

"If honest mistakes were committed, that may be forgiven. But if the power exercise of his emergency powers and why he allowed some people made money at the expense of the public, that is a different thing," Pimentel said.

He also stressed that Ramos could not invoke his supposed right of immunity by refusing to testify before a legislative inquiry.

"I think the concept that a former President cannot be called to any forum to account for his actuations during his presidency is not valid," he said.

PIMENTEL

## Coup charge won't prosper, says Pimentel

WHILE coup and rebellion are criminal offenses in statute books, the conspirators can be prosecuted only if the coup fails.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. thus explained his contention that the coup charges against Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes et al "will not prosper, although it may be good for academic discussion."

"The law against coups is more political than legal in nature," Pimentel said.

He added that any criminal liability of the generals who withdrew their support last year from their commander in chief, then President Joseph Estrada, was effectively erased when Edsa 2 succeeded.

Speaking in another forum, former Sen. Francisco Tatad expressed a parallel view, saying the case against the military generals may have to have to wait until a new leadership succeeds the alleged coup's "beneficiary," the Macapagal administration.

Speaking in yesterday's weekly media gathering in Sulo Hotel, Tatad said Ombudsman Aniano Desierto was correct in saying that the "coup" complaint was tied to the issue of the Macapagal administration's legitimacy, which had already been upheld by the Supreme Court.

"But it is important that (the case) is now on record," Tatad said, so that it could be "revived" in due time, within the 20-year proscription period for heinous crimes.

"Once democracy has returned to this country, the State itself can revive it," said Tatad, who was promoting his new book, "A Nation on Fire."

Tatad's book is subtitled, "The Unmaking of Joseph Ejercito Estrada and the Remaking of Democracy in the Philippines."

"This book doesn't believe that (the incumbent government) is legitimate," Tatad told reporters. In the book's jacket, the author immediately makes it clear that Estrada was overthrown in a "coup" in the middle of his impeachment trial.

Tatad was one of 11 senator-judges who voted against the opening of the infamous "second envelope" during the impeachment trial, the vote that triggered the prosecutors' walkout and, subsequently, People Power 2.

## Gloria gabster backtracks on 'peaceful coup'

ACTING Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. took back his description of People Power 2, which installed President Macapagal-Arroyo in office, as a "peaceful coup."

He told Palace reporters yesterday that he was merely "speaking figuratively."

"There are so many ways to describe the situation. I was speaking figuratively. And I guess it is really open to interpretation," he said.

"I was not implying that any of those moves is illegitimate or unconstitutional," he stressed.

But Afable did not agree with Senators Joker Arroyo and Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s claim that a coup is not illegal if it succeeds.

"*Hindi naman*. The measure is not success but the justness of the cause. When the people see the justness of the cause, you will see there will be overwhelming support. It's not really whether they succeed or not," he said.

Afable was put to task last Friday to defend the military's withdrawal of support from former President Joseph Estrada at the height of the people's uprising January last year.

Allies of the ousted leader had earlier asked the Supreme Court to find those military officials who turned back on Estrada as guilty for "mutiny."

Afable on Friday said that while a coup is the sudden seizure of power by the military, the military's action last January 2001 was in support of a popular uprising.

"So you can call it a peaceful coup by the people," he had said.

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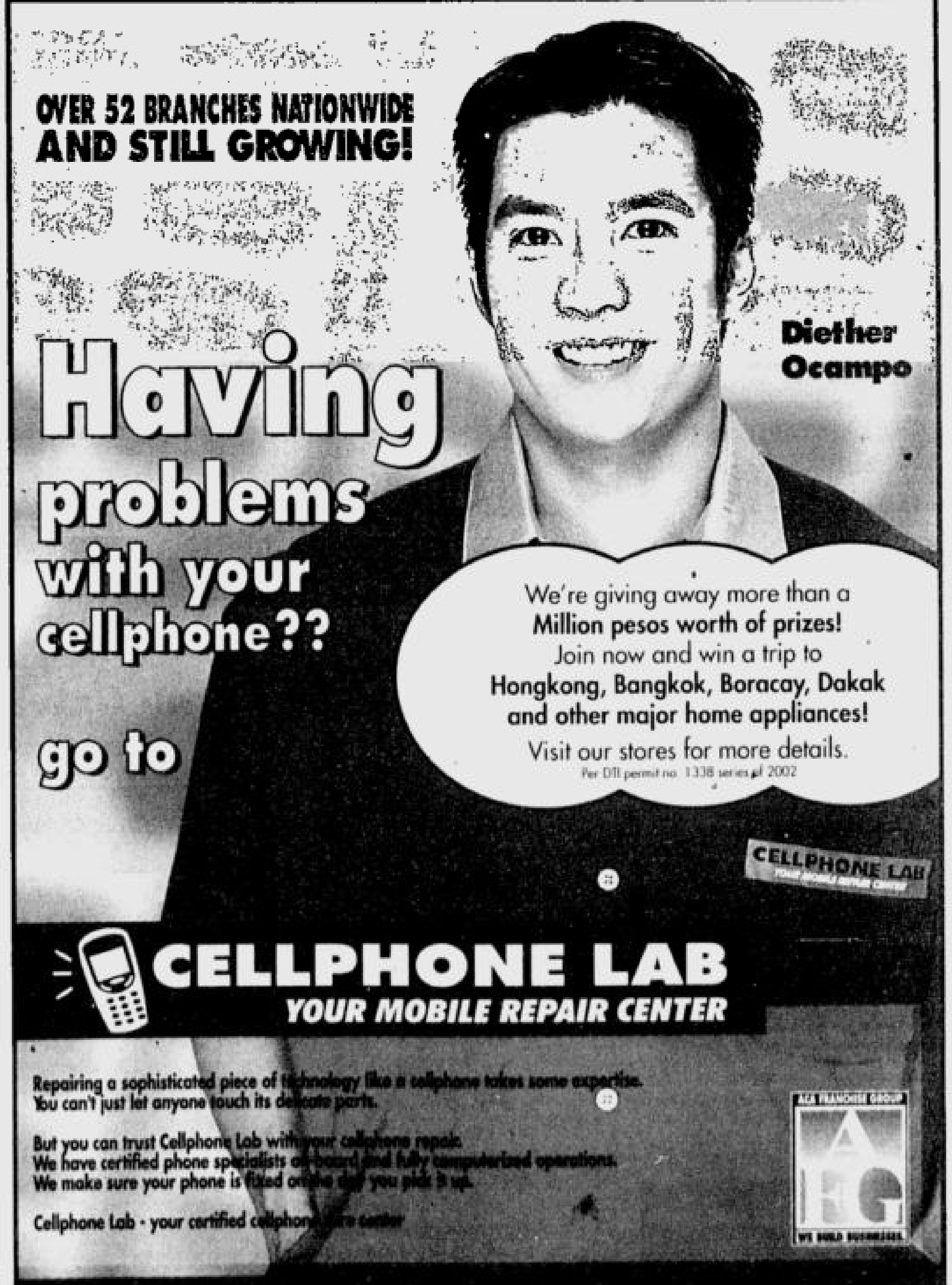

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# Congress power to probe firm hit

By Michael Lim Ubac

A WORKERS' enterprise engaged in cargo handling services at the Cebu International Port (CIP) is questioning the power of Congress to look into its affairs.

In a petition for prohibition filed May 14, the Oriental Port and Allied Services Corp. (Opascor) asked the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order inhibiting the Senate committee on government corporations, chaired by Sen. John Osmeña, from further investigating the corporation.

Opascor is the exclusive cargo-handling service provider rendering arrastre and stevedoring services for foreign vessels at the CIP in Cebu City.

The Osmeña committee, by virtue of Senate Resolution No. 224, has been conducting public hearings on the impending renewal and 15-year extension of the Opascor contract with the Cebu Ports Authority (CPA). The next scheduled hearing is on Tuesday.

Opascor chair Democrito Mendoza, through his counsel Romeo C. dela Cruz, said the public hearings were not being conducted in aid of legislation, as presumed.

Instead, Dela Cruz stressed, it was being used to look into the affairs of a private corporation and to "punish Opascor officials" for alleged irregularities.

He said Osmeña really sought to stop the renewal of Opascor's contract, and investigate alleged unpaid dividends of retirees—matters that were already the subjects of litigation pending in Cebu court.

Opascor was formed in 1990 by employees of the defunct National Stevedoring and Lighterage Corp., a government-owned and -controlled corporation that was privatized during President Corazon Aquino's administration. Opascor's workforce is affiliated with the Associated Labor Union-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.

With an initial capital of P62,500, Opascor has grown into the biggest cargo-handling operator in the Visayas and Mindanao. Its remittances to CPA constitute about 40 percent of the latter's total earnings in arrastre and stevedoring.

Dela Cruz said the Osmeña committee has not only exceeded its jurisdiction but also committed grave abuse of authority and discretion.

He added that requiring Mendoza and other Opascor officials to appear before the Senate committee would violate their constitutional right against self-incrimination. Osmeña had allegedly said that the results of the hearings would be the basis for possible filing of charges against the petitioners.

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## ATM fees exorbitant, says senator

By Cynthia D. Balana

AFTER increasing electricity, fuel and water costs, consumers have turned their attention to the high rate charged for ATM transactions by banks other than the cardholder's own.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay yesterday asked Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura to look into depositors' complaints about inter-bank charges of P5 to P8 per ATM transaction. The amount is automatically deducted from depositors' accounts by Bancnet, Megalink and ExpressNet member banks.

Magsaysay said the charges were unreasonable and exorbitant.

He said the BSP could review the charges with the view of recommending their lowering.

Magsaysay, chair of the committee on banks and financial institutions, also asked Buenaventura to require banks to dispense P100 bills since not all depositors withdraw big amounts.

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## Koreans go on rampage at airport

HUNGRY homebound South Koreans disrupted operations at the Naia Terminal 2 yesterday, demanding that they be given food while waiting for their delayed flight.

All 100 tourists had been told after clearing the immigration counters that Philippine Airlines' Flight 468 to Inchon was not leaving at 1:20 p.m. as scheduled, but five hours later.

They went wild at the pre-departure area, stopping passengers from boarding other planes. Airport policeman Cpl. Robert Cachuela said one of the Koreans tried to grab his service firearm. He managed to break free, and sought assistance from his fellow officers.

Retired Gen. Miguel Hinlo, Naia assistant general manager for security, said timely response of all airport security personnel prevented a stampede that might have injured many passengers.

The furious tourists were detained in a holding room following their collective outburst. They calmed down after PAL management promised a late lunch.

# DOTC denies chief's link to Piatco adviser

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez has nothing to do with the mystery consultant of the consortium building the Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

This was the assertion Friday of the spokesperson of the Department of Transportation and Communication in response to paid newspaper advertisements placed by opponents of the contract that attempted to link Alvarez with Alfonso Liongson.

Liongson has been identified as the "point man" of Piatco, the consortium that won the contract to build the Terminal 3 of Naia. Liongson was reported to be receiving $200,000 from Piatco although it was not clear what he does for the consortium. Opponents of the Piatco deal say he is just a dummy.

But Ramon Cuyco, DOTC spokesperson, said that the Maso "shamelessly tried and utterly failed to link" Liongson with Alvarez.

Maso, Cuyco said, merely asked the question: "What is the power of Liongson over DOTC Secretary Alvarez?" Cuyco said that Maso did not bother to answer the question itself. Cuyco added that the answer is: "None."

"We have time and again pointed out that Secretary Alvarez had nothing to do at all with the approval of the (Piatco) contract that was done during the administration of President Fidel Ramos when Alvarez was not yet the DOTC secretary," Cuyco said.

Cuyco pointed out that the records show that concession agreement for the build-operate-transfer arrangement for the Naia passenger Terminal 3 was entered into by and between the Philippine government and Piatco on July 12, 1997.

The original contract, he said, was signed by Vicente Rivera Jr., then the DOTC secretary, on behalf of the Philippine government.

Then, Cuyco said, on Aug. 27, 1999, the first amendments and supplement to the agreement were entered into by Secretary Rivera and Cheng Yong, president of Piatco during President Estrada's term.

A second supplement was agreed upon on Sept. 4, 2000, still under President Estrada's administration, by Col. Antonio P. Gama, then project director of the Naia Terminal 3 Development Project, by authority of also of then Secretary Rivera.

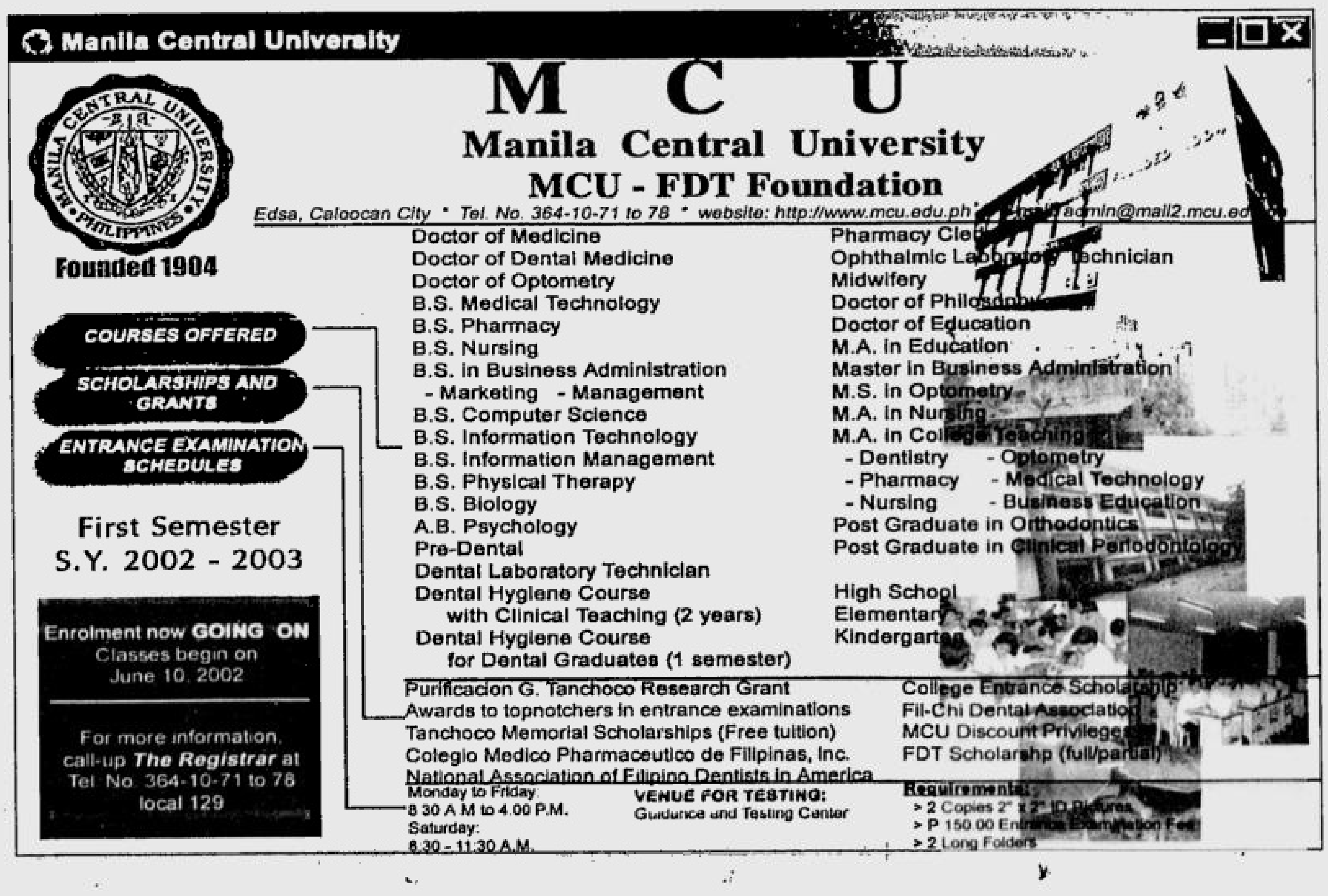
A third supplement to the concession agreement was signed by Transportation Undersecretary Wilfredo M. Trinidad and Edgarda C. Manda, general manager of the MIAA, by authority of Secretary Alvarez, on June 22, 2001. "This was the only participation of Secretary Alvarez to the agreement," remarked Cuyco.

He said the third supplement obligated Piatco to build an access road between Terminal 2 and Terminal 3 of the Naia at its own expense, chargeable to the project cost.

"Now why should Piatco pay a consultant to obtain an agreement which is advantageous only to the government, and disadvantageous to Piatco's financial position?" asked Cuyco.

The DOTC spokesperson also recalled that Dante Canlas, secretary general of the National Economic Development Authority, had testified before the Commission on Appointments that the concession agreement and its three supplements were all "legal and above board."

In fact, Canlas said, the Neda secretariat, following a review, "considers the provisions from the first to the third supplements advantageous to the government."



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# Petron, Caltex follow Shell, hike prices by 39¢

PETRON, Caltex and Flying V raised gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices by 39 centavos per liter yesterday, following the lead of Shell, TotalFinaElf and Eastern Petroleum on Friday.

Petron hiked its prices at noon while Caltex did so at 5 p.m. Flying V said it increased prices depending on conditions at each service station.

"Our dealers would have moved prices if their competitors had done so," Flying V spokesperson Rizza Odra said.

Seaoil Petroleum said it will raise prices at 2 p.m. on Monday.

In a phone interview, Virginia Ruivivar, Petron corporate communications manager, said the firm needed to recover P1 per liter but competition "capped our increase at 39 centavos."

"We were not able to recover 52 centavos per liter of costs in April against March and, before that, 48 centavos in March versus February," Ruivivar told the INQUIRER.

She noted that yesterday's increase was below the 56 centavos projected by Consumer Oil Price Watch (COPW), a private watchdog group.

"If average international crude prices drop to about $23 per barrel, we may no longer raise prices again this month," she said.

The average crude price in April was $24.51 per barrel. Yesterday, it was $25.04.

"We have no plans yet for a second round of increases in May," Ruivivar said.

The oil companies raised prices last month by a total of 87 centavos per liter. Some firms did this in two installments while others did it in three.

Earlier this month, COPW chair Raul Concepcion said local prices of petroleum products were expected to rise by 56 centavos per liter.

Concepcion based this on the rise in Dubai crude prices to $24.51 per barrel in April from $22.96 in March, an increase of $1.55, and the strengthening of the peso from P51.15 to one dollar in March to P51.06 last month.

"I think the oil firms could raise prices in two tranches, but these should not add up to more than 56 centavos per liter," Concepcion had said.

Reuters quoted Shell spokesperson Roberto Kanapi as saying his firm may maintain current prices for the rest of the month if world crude prices stayed below $25 per barrel.

In a statement, Kanapi said the rising value of the peso helped keep down the size of the last price hike.

But Reuters also reported that at the New York Mercantile Exchange on Friday, crude oil for June delivery closed 23 cents higher at $28.18 a barrel.

Prices set an eight-month high over $29 per barrel on Tuesday, around 40 percent up on levels at the end of last year, the news report said. ***With a Reuters report***

## Briton faces raps over hotel blast

DAVAO CITY—A British man who was seriously injured in a powerful blast in Davao City is likely to face criminal charges for keeping explosives in his hotel room, police said yesterday.

Armed police guards have been posted at a hospital room where Michael Meiring, 65, is recuperating from severe injuries that broke both his legs and caused burns on parts of his body, Davao City police chief Samuel Yordan told reporters.

Explosives tore through Meiring's hotel room on Thursday. Police have ruled out "outside perpetrators."

Superintendent Yordan said dynamite stored in the room had caused the explosion, which damaged several of the Evergreen Hotel's 52 rooms.

Police have said Meiring is a treasure hunter who could have been using the explosives to help his team dig for buried treasure around Davao. *AFP*

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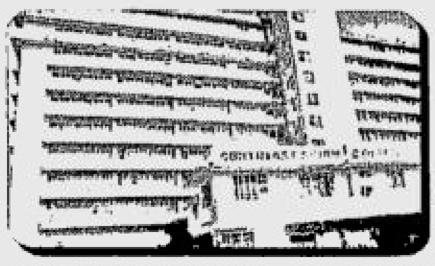

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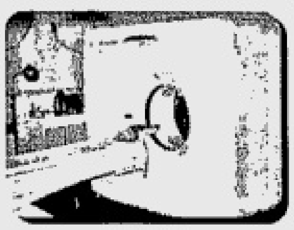
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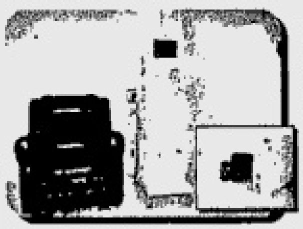
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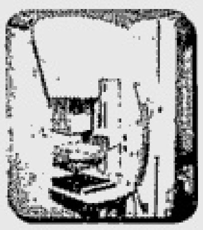
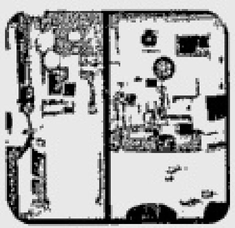

MAMMOGRAPHY

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT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- BS Psychology
- BS Tourism
- BS Hotel and Restaurant Management
- BS Secretarial Administration
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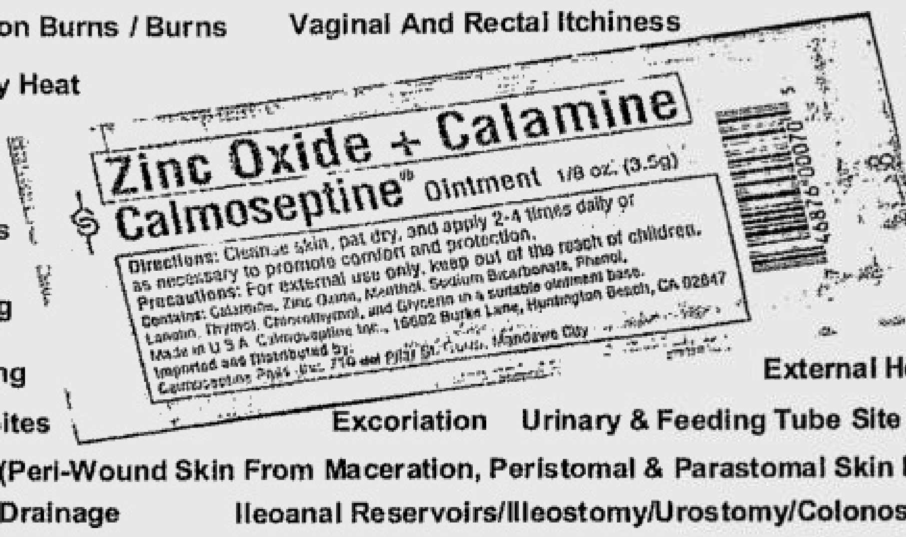

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# Fugitive alleged rapist falls

AN AMERICAN fugitive wanted for allegedly raping a child has been arrested in Baguio City, the immigration bureau said yesterday.

Jeffrey Alan Pollinger, 38, would be deported to stand trial in Los Angeles for allegedly repeatedly raping an eight-year-old girl there in 1998, immigration commissioner Andrea Domingo said in a statement.

Pollinger fled to the Philippines last October, a month after he was indicted for rape.

At the request of the US Embassy, immigration agents arrested him at his home in Baguio on Thursday, Domingo said. ***AFP***

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# German couple kidnapped in Banaue, freed in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—A German couple was abducted by armed men in Banaue, Ifugao, on April 21, an international business and security risk assessment consultancy group confirmed this week.

The Pacific Strategies and Assessments (PSA) based in Hong Kong and Manila confirmed the abduction despite attempts from the Department of Tourism and the police here to hide the incident from reporters.

The confirmation was contained in a letter sent by the PSA to the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica) office here.

The PSA did not identify the couple but it said the woman works for the German Embassy in Manila. The PSA, which advises and gives judgments to clients regarding the risk in investing in any Asian country, also advised foreign travelers to avoid going to Banaue and Sagada towns, favorite tourist destinations in the Cordillera.

A Nica report identified the couple as Jose and Claudia Melo. Claudia is the executive secretary of the German ambassador to the Philippines.

The German couple was abducted on April 21 by armed men in Mt. Polis near the border of Banaue, Ifugao, and Bontoc, Mt. Province. The couple was reportedly on their way to Sagada, Mt. Province, after spending the day viewing the Ifugao Rice Terraces in Banaue. They were driving a rented car when the armed men, aboard a blue Kia Besta van, forced them to stop.

Claudia was asked to ride on a minibus going to Kalinga while Jose was asked to ride on the van. The van, Nica reports said, was stolen while the rented car used by the Melo couple has yet to be found.

The Melos were taken first to Kalinga and later to Baguio City. They were later released after a week in a pension house in the city, the report said.

The PSA, however, said the abductors forced the couple to withdraw P20,000 daily from automated teller machines in the city for four days. The P20,000 is the maximum amount that can be withdrawn in a day. ***Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

CONGRATULATIONS!!!
NANALO NG JACKPOT SA LOTTO
Ginupit lang ang Ads ng Lucky Pyramid sa Daily Inquirer

NOTE: TO LOTTO JACKPOT WINNERS W/ PYRAMID OR WISHING PLANT OR PAMPAYAMAN NA PAPEL
PLS. GO TO JC HERBAL ANOS, LOS BAÑOS FOR INTERVIEW

*Si Adrian Ounchangco ( hindi tunay na pangalan)... ginupit ang ads sa Inquirer at tumaya sa lotto naka-jackpot siya at nagbalato siya sa akin at sa iba pang customers ko sa parlor, naikuwento at inilagay ko sa wallet - Nagpapatotoo manicurista na taga Bulacan.*

BALITANG SUWERTE

Feb. 27 2002
Ako'y nagpapasalamat sa Lucky Pyramid na nabili ko at ipinagkaloob sa akin ni Engr. Centeno dahil tumama po ako sa 4 digit ng 3 numero taya ko P20.00 lang panalo ako ng P1,600.00 ibinili ng gas ipinuhunan sa lutong ulam, ibinayad sa tubig at balato sa kaibigan P100.
Ako po ay nagtitinda ng dyaryo sa Phase 9Phg5 Block 55 Lot 39 Bagong Silang Caloocan City.
MARITES QUINTO SANCHES

✣ ✣ ✣

March 3, 2002
Engr.
Salamat sa Lucky pyramid na White, muntik na kaming nakapag abroad kung hindi lang pinabagsak yung tower sa U.S. pero ang kapalit pala, nagkanegosyo kami ng misis ko, bigasan nakaka P30,000 kami araw-araw. Maraming salamat talaga at talagang totoo yung Lucky Pyramid
NEL
United San Pedro Laguna
0917-4888300

March 12, 2002
Hindi naniniwala ang asawa ko sa mga paswerteng gimik, pero minsan, ginupit lang nya ang Ad sa Dyaryo tumama na siya ng P20,000 sa lotto nang December 2001!
Daling UP student
Tel: 02-935-5557•09178445035
28A Butler St., North Fairview, Q.C

✣ ✣ ✣

March 14, 2002
Thank you sa JC Herbal, Bumili ako ng Pyramid after 3 days umanda ang negosyo ko, kumita ako ng P50,000
0919-3239840

✣ ✣ ✣

March 15, 2002
Bumili ako ng Lucky Pyramid last Sunday, nanalo ako ng ending (1-5) P700 at 4 Digit (8955) P800
Salamat sa lahat at sa darating na swerte
R. Vilanueva
Mkt. City 752-3716

✣ ✣ ✣

March 15, 2002
Kaibigan ng kapatid ko sa Okinawa, Japan laging nanalo sa bingo at Casino, meron silang Lucky Pyramid ni Engr. Centeno
MA. THERESA CARPENA
Cabuyao

Di ako naniniwala sa pampayaman na papel, nabasa ko ng umaga sa dyaryo. Tumama ako sa Lotto ng hapon, Tumama ng na gabi 5 Digit sa 6/4 P20,000
EDWIN ALVAREZ
0917-48102402-San Pablo City

✣ ✣ ✣

March 16, 2002
NANALO SA RAFFLE ng Christmas Party sa Pasig City Hall. Grand Prize VCD (aiwa)
Ginupit ko lang ang logo nila sa Phil. Daily Inquirer.
RUBY VILLAVICENCIO
0917-48102402

✣ ✣ ✣

March 18, 2002
NAPUPULOT NA LANG ANG PERA NGAYON! Ginupit ko lang po ito sa dyaryo tapos inipit ko sa Lucky Pyramid nakapulot ako ng P500,00
Baby Barba
Brgy. Mayatba Siniloan, Lag.

✣ ✣ ✣

March 16, 2002
1 Week lang nagka-TRABAHO.
Bumili ako ng "REDWOOD PYRAMID" nagkaroon ako ng trabaho after 1 week.
JAYSON N.
-Graduate of BSCE at Adamson Univ.

March 18, 2002
After 3 days nanalo ako sa Bingo P10,000 pagkabili ng Redwood Pyramid.
Merong nanalo na taga Hagonoy Bulacan dalawang beses sya tumama sa Lotto. Nagbigay sya ng tulong sa kababayan nating mahirap.
MARIE CLAIRE BONDOC
Sto. Niño Plaridel Bulacan
0919-4795265

✣ ✣ ✣

March 18, 2002
Congrats!!!
Marlyn ng Teyuman NANALO ng P21,000 sa Ending sa Basketball (Tip ng JC Herbal 0-5)
BALATO: P500

✣ ✣ ✣

March 18, 2002
Yung pinsan ko nabigyan ng pink na papel hindi na natatalo sa sabong-nagpatayo ng bahay
MALOU - Lipa Batangas

✣ ✣ ✣

March 19, 2002
Ginupit ko lang ang Lucky Pyramid sa Bulgar inipit ko sa wallet nanalo ako ng SARI-SARI STORE sa promo ng Anel c/0 Ms. Loren Legarda.
FE C. MARTINEZ
Blk. 11 Lt.37 Alfonso VIII Alapan I-B Imus Cavite - 0917-9293943

BALITANG SAYANG

TIP ni Engr. CENTENO HINDI NATAYAAN DAPAT NANALO SA LOTTO P79 MILLION: 10 OCT. 2001
"Sayang hindi ko natayaan yung number panalo sana P79,000,000.00 sa Super Lotto.
-Nanghihinayang,
ROZAIDA BANDA
# 16 Peacock Bend St., Bay breeze Subd. Taguig Metro Manila

March 19, 2002
kapitbahay namin nanalo sa Lotto worth P12,000,000,00 Jackpot bumili ng Pyramid
Tel: 434-3623
GNG. MYRNA CRUZ
San Pedro Pto. Princesa City

✣ ✣ ✣

March 19, 2002
NANALO SA SABONG GINUPIT LANG SA ABANTE:
Ginupit lang sa Dyaryo nanalo sa sabong ng P5.000, 1,000 lang pera nya
EDUARDO TORDECILLA
0919-4641404
Alangila, Bats.

Dapat nanalo ako ng P43M noong Marso 15, 2002 sa Mega Lotto ngunit hindi ko po natayaan, binigay po yung tip ni Engr. Centeno ng JC Hebal 7-18-11-23-31-36
*P200 PAMPAYAMANG PAPEL
BETH MARTINEZ
Marikina City

✣ ✣ ✣

March 12, 2002
Iyong no. po na binigay ni Engr. Centeno dapat nanalo kaso hindi ko natayaan nang mother ko sa Singapore. Sayang Jackpot sana.

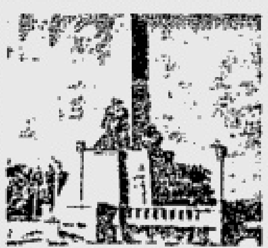
✣ ✣ ✣

March 18, 2002
Dapat nanalo ako ng Jueteng 4 days ko lang tinayaan (36/31) kinabukasan lumabas di ko natayaan (5th day) Dapat nanalo ako ng P32,000.00
ENGR. CENTENO
Los Baños

✣ ✣ ✣

March 19, 2002
DAPAT NANALO NG P100,000 JACKPOT DI NATAYAAN ANG CIRCLE 8 TIP NG JC HERBAL:
Si Mrs. Isidra Manguerra ng Sta. Rosa, Laguna ay nanalo sana ng P100,000 Jackpot sa Bingo, Hindi niya lang natayaan.
MERCY BAUAN
Dita Sta. Rosa, Laguna

MERON NG SOLUTION SA GRAFT & CORRUPTION AT JUETENG!
Balitang Positibo Upang Tayo'y Umasenso

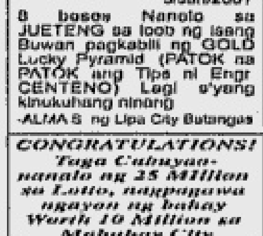


NAGKA-P50 MILLION at NAGKA-BAHAY (P500,000!)
Bumili ako ng maliit lang na Pyramid tuloy-tuloy ang benta ko sa Jardine Land.
Nag-top ako, Umabot ako sa P50M in one year marami akong AWARD na natanggap
Syempre kasama ang dasal. Nagpa-aral ko ang mga anak ko sa College
-Lyana

GINUPIT LANG SA FINDERS
Dec. 25, 2001
Since I started to cut the ads from the newspaper I inserted it from my checkbook, never I ever encountered hardly in funding all the checks I issued. My business prosper & I was able to go out frequently outside the country. I don't have yet a Pyramid & Wishing Plant but all the blessings comes very often.
Note:For 1 month I can sell 1MILLION
From· LYN N. Cubao, Q.C

P1.4 M Jackpot
sa ON-LINE BINGO
Filipino, Napanalunan ng 21 taon na estudyante.
Bumili siya ng White Lucky Pyramid Bert Enriquez, wagka namang magtago, balatuhan mo naman ang iyong mga kaibigan.
NAKABILI NG STAREX

MGA NANALO SA JUETENG!
• 3 beses nanalo ng P32,000 si aling Tina ng Taguig, pagkabili ng Lucky Pyramid at wishing Plant.
• 7 beses nanalo sa loob ng isang buwan, pagkabili ng Red Lucky Pyramid. Pinakamataas- P18,000, pinakamababa- P1,200- Al Salaguinto ng Montalban
• Nanalo ng P80,000 sa Jueteng (10-33) pagkabili ng 2 White pyramid w/ face of jesus- Jose Estrada ng Manila.
• 2 beses nanalo ng P18,000 sa jueteng pagkabili ng White Pyramid w/ face of Jesus- Manilyn ng Bucal, Calamba



3/Jan/2001
8 beses Nanalo sa JUETENG sa loob ng isang Buwan pagkabili ng GOLD Lucky Pyramid (PATOK na PATOK ang Tips ni Engr CENTENO) Lagi s'yang kinukuhang ninong
-ALMA S. ng Lipa City Batangas

CONGRATULATIONS!
Taga Cabuyao-nanalo ng 25 Million sa Lotto, nagpapagawa ngayon ng bahay Worth 10 Million sa Mabuhay City

NANALO ng P100,000 JACKPOT sa BINGO sa Waltermart, Calamba (Pinangtubos ng mga alahas at pinangtuition ng mga anak) BALATO; 0 (Nakabili ng Black Pyramid P300 sa JC Herbal )
Ako po si Angie taga Sta. Cruz, Nanalo ako ng P100,000 sa Walter Mart noong Jan 21. Binayad sa tuition ng anak ko.
-Angie
Nagmano Kay Engr. CENTENO

BALITANG SUWERTE
PAMPA TRABAHO
AT PAMPA-ABROAD PA!

BIYAYA SA NANINIWALA SA PILOSOPO WALA

TRABAHO ANG LUMAPIT
OCT 20, 2001
After 3 days mula ng bumili ako ng Pyramid, nakahanap ako ng trabaho Thank you sa Pyramid and to Our Lord Jesus Christ. Gina of Lipa

ENJOY GOD'S MIRACLES
LABANAN ang KAHIRAPAN
LABANAN ang SUGAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit. You who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal,You who give the divine gift to forgive & forget the wrong that is done to me & who, in all instances of my life, is with me. I, in this dialogue, want to thank you for everything & confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You & may love ones in your perpetual Glory. Amen

Nakapag-ABROAD na sa TAIWAN, 2 BESES pa NANALO sa CHRISTMAS RAFFLE ang kapatid na may GOLD PYRAMID (PRIZES APPLIANCES & 50,000 TAIWAN DOLLAR)

WALA KA BANG TRABAHO?
WALA RING PERA?
Gusto mong magka-trabaho at magkapera?
Makakatulong ako sa iyo.

BAWAL NA MAGTIPID AT MAGBADYET
NAIMBENTO NA ANG PAMPAYAMAN
Hindi anting-anting o magic
Yung walang pera, nagkakapera
Yung walang trabaho nagkakatrabaho
Yung hindi nananalo. laging nananalo
Sa BINGO, LOTTO, RAFFLE at iba pa.

GAMOT SA SAKIT SA BULSA
"NAIMBENTO NA"
ENJOY GODS MIRACLES
LUCKY PYRAMID
PARA HINDI NAUUBUSAN NG PERA

BIGLANG YAMAN DUMARAMI DAHIL SA PYRAMID
Mabibili rin: WISHING PLANT (PAMPAUNLAD NG BUHAY)

*Gumamit ng Pampa- YAMAN "Gamot sa sakit sa Bulsa." Hindi kayo mauubusan ng PERA. Talagang Totoo Lalong Gumagastos, lalong dumarating ang PERA. Walang Mawawala kung susubukan. YAYAMAN KA LANG*

CONGRATULATIONS!
Ms. MYRNA, empleyado ng House of Congress, ginupit ang ads sa diaryo, bumili ng Wishing Plant at nanalo ng P24 Million JACKPOT sa
Engr. MARGIE D. CENTENO
Young inventor of the Year 1990 one of the 10 Most Outstanding Inventor 1993

Pampa-TRABAHO
Pampa-ABROAD
Panlaban sa SUGAL
para laging PANALO SA LOTTO, JAI ALAI, BINGO, ENDING, SWEEPTAKES atbp.

"PAGMABILIS KANG BUMILI MABILIS KANG MANALO"

LUCKY PYRAMID
GAMOT SA SAKIT SA BULSA
PARA HINDI NA MAUBUSAN NG PERA
Goodluck sa Negosyo, trabaho, Pag-ibig, Swerte sa LOTTO, Bingo, Atbp.
Bumili ako ng Lucky Pyramid noong January 10. After 1 week, nanalo ako ng P60.000 sa "laban o Bawi" noong Jan. 19 2002 Lagi akong nananalo sa Bingo, NOTE: Nakagaan sa problema ko ito at darating ang VISA ko sa next week- Jaime Villamor ng Angat. Bulacan
BALITANG TAGUMPAY!

TRABAHO ANG KUSANG LUMAPIT
Feb. 7, 2002
Hindi na kami naghihirap ngayon simula ng ginupit ko ang Ads ng Lucky Pyramid sa FINDERS. Trabaho ang lumapit sa mister ko. TALAGANG NANINIWALA na ako. Thank you Lord Jesus Christ at sa Lucky Pyramid ni Engr. Centeno.
Jenelyn Deloyola
San Antonio Los Baños Laguna

P3.00 NAGING P1,600
Feb. 3, 2002
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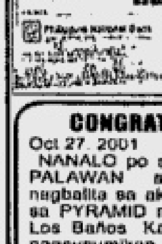

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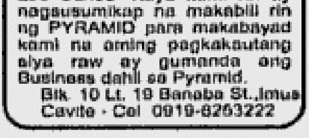

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## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Sunday, May 19, 2002**
**Pentecost Sunday**

**1stReading: Acts 2:1-11**

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. And suddenly out of the sky came a sound like a strong rushing wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. There appeared tongues as if of fire, which parted and came to rest upon each one of them. All were filled with Holy Spirit and began to speak other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Staying in Jerusalem were religious Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered, all excited because each heard them speaking in his own language. Full of amazement and wonder, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that we hear them in our own native language? Here are Parthians, Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and foreigners who accept Jewish beliefs, Cretians and Arabians; and all of us hear them proclaiming in our own language what God, the Savior, does.

**2nd Reading: 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13**

Brothers and sisters, no one can say, "Jesus is the Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There is diversity of gifts, but the Spirit is the same. There is diversity of ministries, but the Lord is the same. There is diversity of works, but the same God works in all.

The Spirit reveals his presence in each one with a gift, which is also a service.

As the body is one, having many members, and all the members, while being many, form one body, so it is with Christ. All of us, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, have been baptized in one Spirit to form one body and all of us have been given to drink from the one Spirit.

**Gospel: John 20:19-23**

On the evening of that day, the first day after the sabbath, the doors were locked where the disciples were, because of their fear of the Jews, but Jesus came and stood in their midst. He said to them, "Peace be with you"; [20] then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples kept looking at the Lord and were full of joy.

Again Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." After saying this he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit; for those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained."

**Commentary**

Thanks to the Charismatic Movement that we have been re-awakened to the reality of the Spirit of God.

The Spirit of love gives us the strength to do the impossible—to love our neighbors not because they have loved us first or because we expect them to return the same love for our love, but to love as the Spirit inspires us to love!

The Spirit of strength gives us the power to witness to God's presence in the world, to proclaim that there is more to life than all the progress we experience in wealth and technology, even as all these are part of God's plan.

The Spirit of God makes us drunk in God's joy and infuses us with love that makes us want to jump and dance and sing and shout that God is alive!

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## SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

**CIVIL LAW (TORTS AND DAMAGES)—Recovery of actual damages**—Basic is the rule that to recover actual damages, the amount of loss must not only be capable of proof but must actually be proven with reasonable degree of certainty, premised upon competent proof or best evidence obtainable of the actual amount thereof. A court cannot merely rely on speculations, conjectures or guesswork as to the fact and amount of damages. Thus, while indemnification for damages shall comprehend not only the value of the loss suffered, but also that of the profits which the oblige failed to obtain, it is imperative that the basis of the alleged unearned profits is not too speculative and conjectural as to show the actual damages which may be suffered on a future period. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez, Third Division, [National Power Corporation v. Philipp Brothers Oceanic, Inc., G. R. No. 126204, November 20, 2001] **Digest by R. B. Vera**

## TURNOVER RITES

# Gloria urges end to AFP bickering

**By TJ Burgonio**

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday voiced the hope the assumption to office of Armed Forces chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Roy A. Cimatu, would put an end to the "white papers" questioning her choice of top military chief.

Speaking at the turnover rites from outgoing chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva to Cimatu at Camp Aguinaldo, the President lamented that even after she had announced her choice of Cimatu, "there was the usual flurry of white papers and derogatory press statements."

"I hope they now end and I hope they don't resurface when it's time to choose the next chief of staff," Ms Macapagal said. "I can only take one chief of staff at a time.

Cimatu, former Southern Command chief, officially took over from Villanueva as the 29th chief of staff during a two-hour "change of command" ceremony attended by no less than Admiral Thomas Fargo, commander in chief of the US Pacific Command (Cincpac).

Cimatu's appointment sparked controversy after he was selected over three more senior officers and was promoted with barely two months left before his scheduled retirement in July.

In her speech, the President noted that Cimatu, as 4th Division commander, had led the all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Mindanao during the Estrada administration, which resulted in the capture of some 30 MILF camps—including the major ones, Bushra and Abubakar.

"If former chief of staff (now defense secretary) Angelo Reyes called him General Pacman, I have heard others call Cimatu the thinking general. He worked out the battle plan for the all-out war and carried it out to capture" the MILF camps, Ms Macapagal said.

"Having selected as chief of staff the general who captured all those camps, I'm sure you will believe me now when I assure everyone there's no returning Camp Abubakar or any other camp to the MILF," the President said, referring to the supposed agreement with the MILF to give back the captured camps.

The President spoke before a large crowd that included Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Rodolfo Biazon, Secretary Reyes, the major service commanders, foreign dignitaries and other military officers.

Her speech was preceded by an elaborate inspection and presentation of troops involving the major services.

The President also commended Villanueva for his 38 years of service to the armed forces, especially for his role in quelling the violent Labor Day siege of Malacañang last year.

"Under his steely resolve and professionalism, our soldiers gallantly defended the presidential palace while resisting the urge to fire back at the unruly crowd. By that act, the uniformed services under the leadership of General Villanueva once again won the nation's trust," Ms Macapagal said.

She also credited Villanueva with drawing up a proposed national military strategy in response to her request for a review of the military doctrine, and for leading the Retirement and Separation Benefit System out of the doldrums, posting a P39-million income in 2001 as chairman of the board.

"I enjoin the new chief of staff to provide continuity in these," she added.

During the ceremonies, the President awarded the Legion of Honor to Villanueva for his meritorious service as AFP chief of staff.

She also announced that she had certified as urgent an administration bill that seeks to raise soldiers' pay to the level of public school teachers.

# Abu leader slain in Zamboanga

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A ranking leader of the Abu Sayyaf based in Lantawan, Basilan, was killed by police on Friday night after he reportedly resisted arrest at a bus station in Barangay Guiwan here.

Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon, Western Mindanao police director, identified the victim as Sahinon Hapilon, a brother of Abu Sayyaf leaders Isnilon and Bakkal Hapilon and himself a wanted man with a P150,000 prize on his head.

The Hapilon brothers are believed to be holding the American missionary couple, Martin and Gracia Burnham, and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap hostage.

Sahinon was about to board a bus for Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay when he was spotted by police operatives under Manhunt Bravo.

"He was with some of his followers when spotted," Dizon said.

Dizon said when police tried to arrest Sahinon, the Abu Sayyaf leader resisted while his men fled in different directions.

"He tried to grab the firearm of SPO1 Elvis Gulang and during the grappling, the firearm went off, hitting Sahinon in the leg," Dizon said.

He said Hapilon appeared to have died of shock and loss of blood while police were rushing him to Camp Batalla.

Sahinon was the subject of an arrest warrant issued by Judge Danilo Bucoy in Isabela City on Nov. 26, 2001. He faced 11 counts of kidnapping and serious illegal detention.

PNP Chief Director General Leandro Mendoza told the INQUIRER Sahinon and his brothers were charged with safekeeping the Burnhams and Yap, who have been in Abu Sayyaf hands for one year now.

"The Hapilon brothers according to our information are holding the Burnhams, that is why our men were pursuing them," Mendoza said.

He said police are studying the possibility the Burnhams had been moved to the Zamboanga peninsula from Basilan, which was why Sahinon was going to Ipil.

The body of Hapilon was identified by police informants based on photographs shown them, according to a police official quoted by the Agence France Presse. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AFP***

# *Cracking good time was had by all*

**From page A1**

included the guest of honor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, and the visiting American Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander in chief of the US Pacific Command.

An amused Cimatu paused from his speech to say: "My first task would be to modernize the AFP. The first is an accident. The second is not."

But there was to be a third.

### Chain of command

A burly US military officer also fell off his seat after his plastic chair collapsed while Ms Macapagal was delivering her speech.

The President quipped: "General Cimatu, if more chairs break down, the command responsibility will go higher in the chain of command." With that line, she got a lot of laughs.

But it was no comic relief for several military officers who had been standing for at least two hours under the punishing summer heat. They fainted, or were on the edge of falling. And they were not even seated on those breakable chairs.

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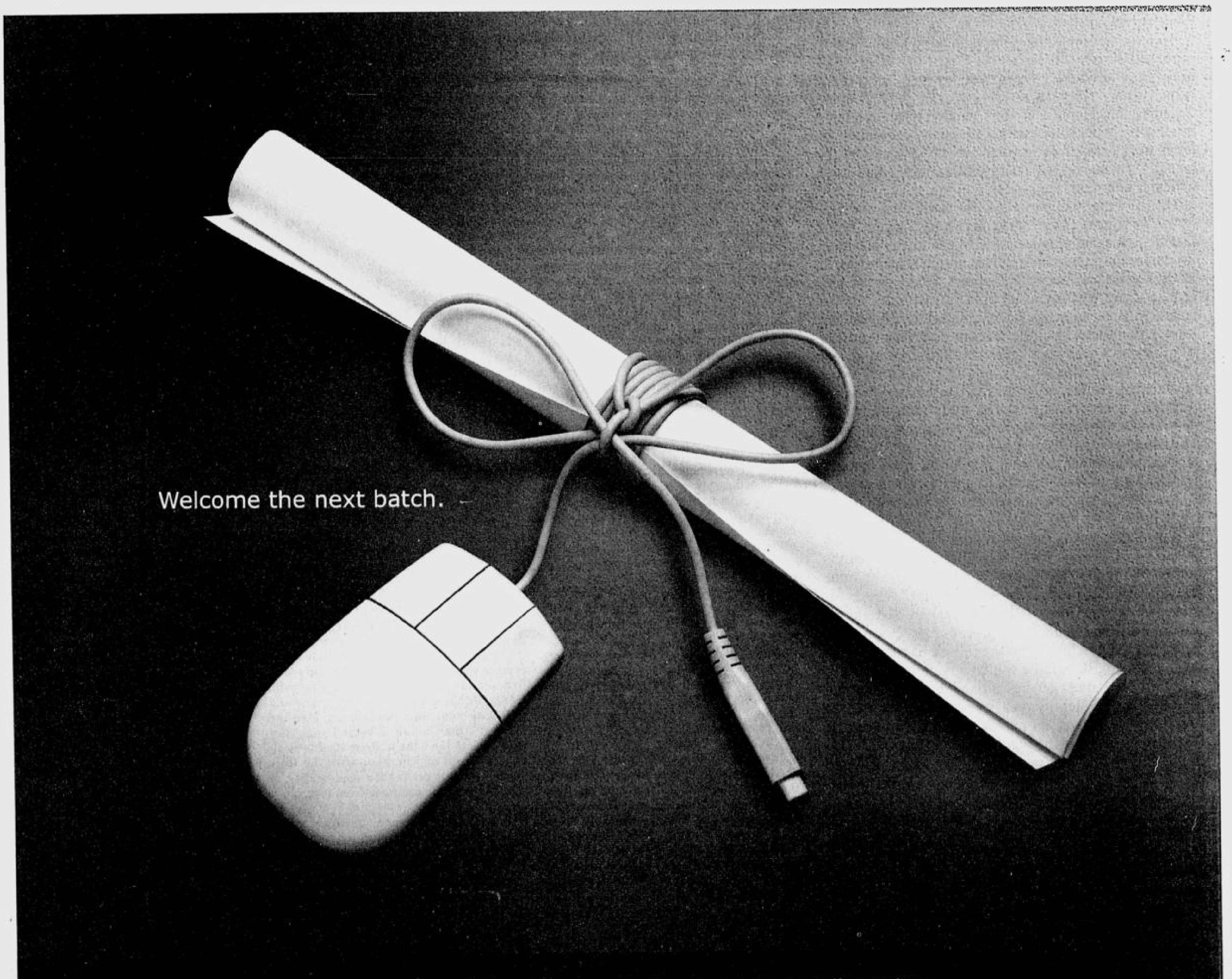

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# OPINION

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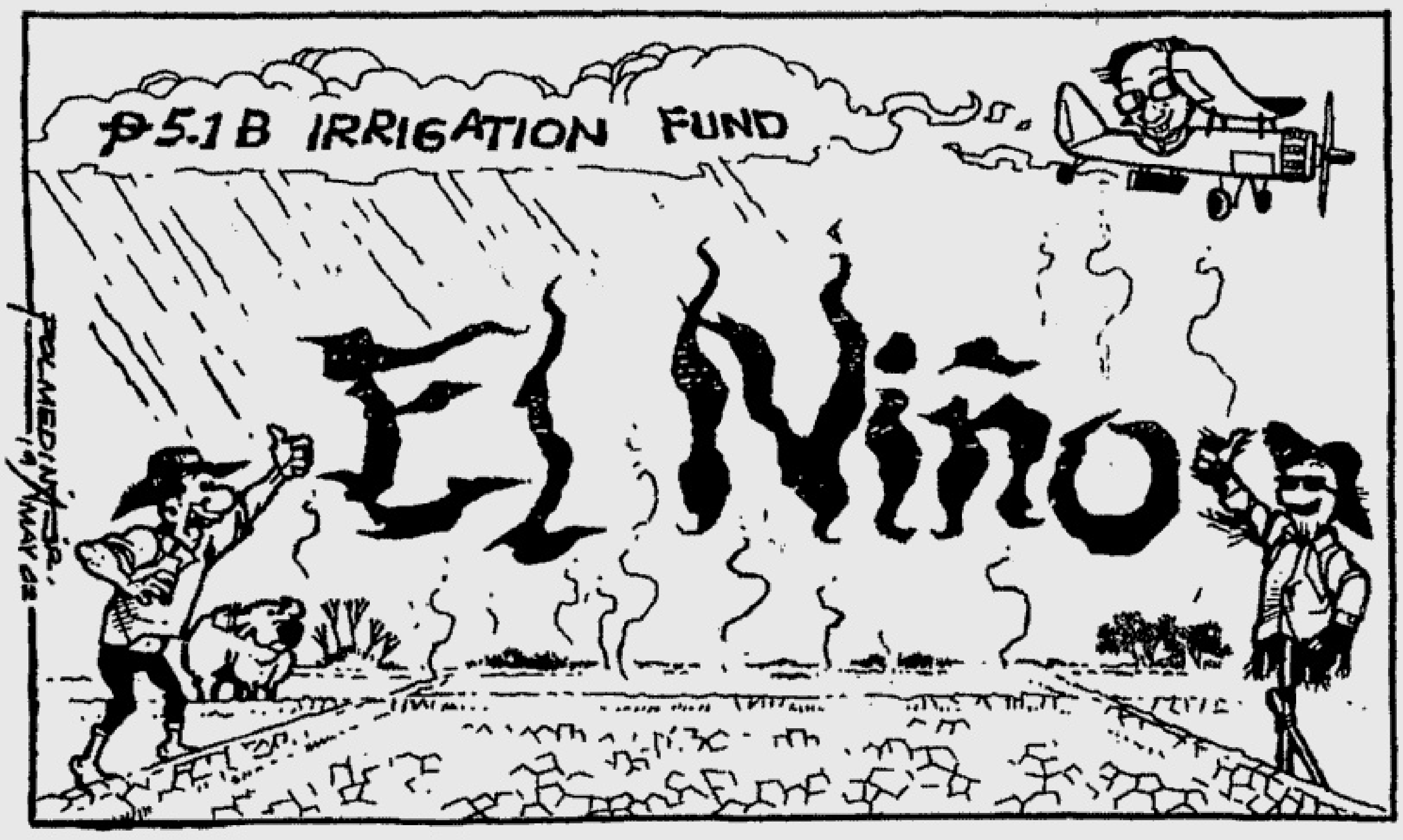

# Electric Serge

**EDITORIAL**

LAST Tuesday, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III retailed a report about another allegedly overpriced power contract that quickly turned out to be false. In other words, he was the perhaps unwitting victim of a "*kuryente*"—what Filipino journalists call the false story or the fake report. Osmeña's electric moment raises provocative questions about the increased blurring of boundaries between politics and media. Media stars like his fellow senators Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda are on one side of the new coin our country's celebrity-oriented political culture has thrown into circulation. It is becoming clear that politicians like Osmeña occupy the other side.

Osmeña—one of two incumbent senators who bear the most potent political name in the country's history—claimed last week that the Department of Energy had signed a contract with Asea Brown Boveri to operate the country's wholesale electricity spot market. He alleged that the German company Siemens, not the Swiss-Swedish ABB, was the actual winning bidder. He also claimed that the contract was grossly overpriced, costing the government some P6.75 billion.

Because Osmeña always makes good copy, Senate reporters wrote up the story. This was, after all, a nationally elected government official, making a sensational allegation against the government department "du jour." Not just a senator, to be sure, but a small-party oppositionist with a pre-Senate reputation for numeracy. Unlike most members of the Senate and the media, Osmeña was known as someone who could make numbers sing.

The resulting song, however, was a one-note wonder.

The very next day, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez calmly pulled the plug on the Osmeña music machine. He pointed out that Osmeña had gotten it all wrong. It was not ABB, but Alstom Philippines, who won the bid. The contract was for an operating software, not an operations or management arrangement, for the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM). And the winning price was $4.5 million (P250 million at last week's dollar exchange rate), not P6.75 billion. Maybe, Perez told House reporters laconically, whoever Osmeña's source was, told him "only half the story." How did Osmeña get it so wrong? He either committed a rookie reporter's mistake, and failed to check with the accused or hear out the other side, or he acted the way a journalist who sees himself as a political player would: focused on his agenda, uncaring about the truth of the story.

The comparison to journalist types is not an idle one, because Osmeña has more than once sought to clothe himself, not in the purple robes of a legislator, but in the white-shirt-and-denims of a journalist. When, for example, he was pressed late last year to back up his allegation that Malacañang played a part in paying ransom to the Abu Sayyaf for the release of businessman Reghis Romero, he said he couldn't name his sources in public—in the same way, he said, that journalists cannot be compelled to identify their sources. Into the current row on the controversial purchased power adjustment fee, he has sparked discussion by weaving tales of official incompetence and runaway greed. To a PPA-maddened public, he has cast himself as the Senate's journalist-in-residence, reporting exposé after exposé.

The false report about the WESM, however, gives all of us the chance to reconsider Osmeña's new role. "Fiscalizing," that hybrid Filipino word, seems a sorry excuse. What we really have here is a case of blurred boundaries: a newsmaker who reports the news. Unlike De Castro and Legarda, however, who came to politics by way of media, it seems Osmeña—like many other politicians—is going the opposite route: coming to media by virtue of his political prominence. Perhaps for him there is no real difference, only different routes to celebrity-hood.

But last week's "*kuryente*" proves that there is a difference. Stories are subject to verification: did the source really say what he was supposed to have said? But exposés, of the political kind, relate to agenda, not to truth. For political exposés, half of the story is equal or better than the whole of it.

# Japche and cleanliness

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

I WENT to Korea recently and wept for my Metro Manila when I saw the spanking-clean Seoul. They were like alpha and omega. As far as cleanliness was concerned, they were poles apart. Everything Seoul was, Metro Manila was not. I felt ashamed for our metropolis.

As a matter of civic pride, I made it a point to search for graffiti in Seoul. I looked everywhere, and hard enough, but found none. I do not exaggerate. In Metro Manila, a clean wall is a solitary exception to the unkempt surroundings. In Seoul, clean walls are the rule, and there are no exceptions.

The walls in Seoul even have designs or patterns! The people there take pains to make their walls look attractive not only with paint but also with patterns. The designs are cut or etched on the walls at not much expense but with plenty of patience. The people make special efforts to make their walls look beautiful.

We in Metro Manila are not as motivated. Most of our walls are made of naked hollow blocks joined with patches of concrete; others are simply smoothed with cement plaster to cover the joints; some are painted to make them look less drab. And that's all there is. No design or pattern, no attempt at beauty, no embellishment like the walls in Seoul.

The outlook of the average Filipino is strictly functional; there is no artistic fire. The common philosophy is *Makaraos lamang, kahit papano*—it's enough to just get by. *Basta matapos, okay na*. No sense of accomplishment, no pride of authorship. *Yari na, pare, magtoma na tayo*. There's no striving for excellence; mediocrity will do.

What's the point in making things beautiful when, anyway, the vandals are waiting to uglify them? Some walls are marred with graffiti even before their paint is dry. This affliction has spread all over Metro Manila like a manic outbreak that cannot be controlled.

It's understandable if the robbers and kidnappers are proving to be smarter than the police they easily elude. But are the police also dumber than the teenage hooligans who mar the whole metropolis with their meaningless scribblings? These are not hardened criminals but only minor miscreants armed with nothing more dangerous than aerosol paint.

Maybe it was the time of year in Korea when the trees were bare, but there was still an abundance of flowers. These were used to adorn the sidewalks, to make them pleasant to look at with their yellow and red blooms in huge flat flowerpots. One could sense the deliberate civic endeavor to decorate the whole city with color and scent.

In most places in Metro Manila, sidewalks are impassable because they are blocked by parked cars. Rolling stores selling fishballs, vulcanizing shops, and even a *barong-barong* or two occupy many sidewalks. This is done under the nose—or the deliberate permission—of the police. Renting sidewalks is one of the sidelines of the police.

We do have verdant trees all over our metropolis, but most of them are dying for lack of water. The newly-established garden near the Merville entrance on the South superhighway is sadly going dry. The plants are languishing for lack of affection, and the grass has turned sere in its desperate cry for rain.

And the garbage? There is none in Seoul or at least we did not see it. Waste management is so efficient compared to the abject surrender of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to the ubiquitous rubbish that is growing by the hour. Where Hamelin town was overrun by rats, we in Metro Manila are awash in trash. And don't be deceived by the temporary respite—the hills of refuse will be back, fattening the flies and dirtying the smog.

The Han River, wider than our Pasig River, is also cleaner. It used to be as dirty, but it was dredged to make it look presentable for the World Olympics held in that country in 1988. It has remained clean since then, to the delight of sightseers, including the natives themselves. It is something they proudly exhibit to the tourists as their own civic handiwork.

Our once romantic Pasig River has become like a jaded slattern. Traces of its beauty have been mired in slime. Steps are being taken to restore its lost charm but without much success or enthusiasm. There is a rare old picture of Malacañang clearly *mirrored* in the clean waters of the Pasig River. But that was a century ago.

And the *esterds* are no better; in fact, they are worse. President Estrada once personally directed the clean-up of an *estero* in Pasay City that was practically covered with all kinds of filth. This was another *ningas kugon* act because the rubbish was back after a few days and the *estero* is now as dirty as before.

The people living in the slums may be generally clean, but they do not take care of their surroundings. There are also slums in Seoul, but the residents carefully cover them so as not to mar the appearance of the rest of the community. Our slum dwellers smugly *flaunt* their hovels and couldn't care less about aesthetic values.

There is one thing, though, in which we excel the Koreans, and that is politeness. Jostling people without a by-your-leave or an excuse-me seems to be part of their culture. They probably don't intend to be discourteous but are instead only in a terrible hurry. My wife and I were strolling arm-in-arm when a well-dressed woman squeezed in between us and continued walking without a backward glance. All in the day's work for her.

All told, my visit to Korea was a pleasant experience. What I'll remember most about Seoul is its cleanliness, something I have grown accustomed to *miss* in my own Metro Manila.

# Let it rain!

**MOMENTS**

*Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD*

WHEN we were high school seminarians, I remember listening to mission talks of our returning or vacationing missionaries from distant foreign lands. It was always an inspiring experience to hear of their experiences, travels, joys, woes and funny moments. Here is one story I heard from Fr. Ben Prado, SVD, our veteran missionary to Indonesia.

In one of his mission trips, he found himself in a deep forest. It was getting dark and his horse was very slow. He remembered, hearing from the people that if he wanted the horse to run faster, all he had to do was to put *sili* (red pepper) in the behind of the horse. He did just that, and the horse took off so fast leaving him behind. Not wanting to be left alone in the forest, he also put *sili* in his behind, and he ran so fast, he even overtook the horse!

* * *

**Just like Father Prado in the story we need new strength, new power, new life in the church these days. We need a new Pentecost to give us renewal and freshness. We need the Lord to breathe His Holy Spirit upon us again (Jn. 20, 19-23), to open our locked doors and to remove the fear in our hearts. More than ever, we need to say the prayer "Come Holy Spirit, Come Holy Spirit, Come Holy Spirit!"**

* * *

It is so hot and dry in the Philippines these days. It has been a very oppressive summer, with no clear end in sight. Rivers are dry and the land is parched. We need rain, lots of rain to make our land green and productive again. Let it rain, let it rain, let it rain!

* * *

**Just as we need a real downpour, we need a real outpouring of the Holy Spirit to refresh our dry and weary souls. After the resurrection, the Risen Lord greeted His disciples with "Peace be with you" so many times. He knew that freedom from fear is our greatest need. We have so many fears in life—fear of poverty, fear of death, fear of sickness and fear of fear itself. Fear can stifle us and control us. Fear deprives us of true living and true loving. May the Holy Spirit remove our fears and give us the courage to live and love again. What is your favorite fear in life? Deal with your fear as you would deal with your own shadow, i.e. face the light, and the shadow is behind you. Turn your back to the light, and the shadow is always in front of you. Expose to the Holy Spirit whatever areas that need healing in your life, and you are freed from fear.**

* * *

It is interesting to note the connection of fear, forgiveness and peace in today's Gospel. We need peace to remove our fears. Our fears deprive us of peace. We need forgiveness to have peace. Forgiveness removes all our fears. Forgiveness then is the source of true peace and the antidote to all fears. Yes, forgiveness sets us free. Do you feel imprisoned in life? Do you feel a vacuum in your heart? Try forgiveness: ask for forgiveness from God; forgive people who have hurt you; ask for forgiveness from people you have hurt, cheated, used or abused; and lastly, forgive yourself and believe you are forgiven. Unless and until you have done these, you cannot have true peace.

* * *

**I did some cleaning in my room last week. I have occupied this same room for the past 10 years already, and it has accumulated not only dust but also many memorabilia through the years. It is not easy to let go and dispose of things we treasure in life, but imagine if I never let go. There would be no more room for me! From time to time, we need to "unload" clothes, memorabilia, correspondence and treasures. Letting go is never easy but it sets us free. It is the same with the heart. We need to learn how to unload what we do not need—fears, regrets, guilts, ill-feelings, hurts. The best way to unload is to forgive. Invert the word forgive and you have (GIVE FOR). This is the secret of a peaceful life. Don't retain your sins and heartaches. GIVE FOR the Lord to take care of all your fears, burdens, sins and problems. *Gives mo. Gets mo?***

* * *

We all will face our Creator someday. I wonder what you and I will present to Him at the end of our lives? The material things we surely cannot carry with us, so that's out of the question. The money, the properties, the power, the influence you and I are holding on to now will not matter, so we better learn detachment now. What will matter is the love we have shared and the goodness we have done. May the Holy Spirit enlighten us to see what is really important in this life and beyond.

* * *

**Let it rain! Yes, let us pray for rain in our land. Let it rain! Yes, let us pray for the spirit of freshness in our weary souls once again. Let it rain! Yes, let us pray for the spirit of peace in our country and our people. Let it rain! Yes, let us pray for the spirit of renewal in the church, and may the Holy Spirit remove our fears and give us forgiveness and true peace again.**

* * *

**A MOMENT WITH THE LORD**

*Lord, rain on us the Holy Spirit and give us freshness, renewal and strength once again. Amen.*

# Dilemma on Burma: Drugs vs democracy

## NEWS ANALYSIS

*Andrew Marshall*

BANGKOK—The international community faces a dilemma in its relations with Burma—is it more important to oppose dictatorship or combat the drugs trade?

The isolated and impoverished nation has been ruled by the military for four decades and its human rights record is among the worst in the world. It was also the world's top producer of opium and heroin in 2001 and is a burgeoning source of stimulants.

Many anti-narcotics officials say the only way to stop the flow of heroin flooding Europe and America is to work with Burma's ruling junta, providing equipment, expertise and financial aid in return for cooperation in fighting drugs.

But this would mean easing the sanctions that many analysts say played a key role in forcing the military to soften its stance toward the pro-democracy opposition and to release Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest this month.

The dilemma has hung over US policy for years, pitting the State Department against the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The State Department has consistently supported maintaining sanctions on Burma. The DEA says the only way to fight the drugs trade effectively is to engage Burma's government constructively and provide anti-narcotics aid to Yangon.

Now the issue is back at the center of attention.

Colonel Kyaw Thein, head of Burma's counter-narcotics operations, is in Washington this week to discuss drug eradication.

The State Department says the visit will be an opportunity to tell the Burma regime what steps it must take to stop drugs trafficking, and that there are no plans to resume aid.

"We have pushed counter-narcotics cooperation with Burma even as we have been steadfast in our support for democracy," State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher told a news conference.

But critics say allowing the visit has sent the wrong signals and suggests Washington may be preparing to soften its sanctions on Burma following Suu Kyi's release without waiting for real political reform and progress toward democracy.

Years of economic mismanagement in Burma have been compounded by sanctions and the economy is in ruins.

The military insists it is combating the drugs trade, and has said it plans to crack down on elements in the United Wa State Army (UWSA), an ethnic army which has struck a peace deal with the junta and which is accused of large-scale drug production.

But analysts say Burma's economy needs drugs to survive.

Frank Milne, an analyst with the Canberra-based Asean Focus Group, says economic statistics from Burma do not add up unless a hefty contribution from drug money is assumed.

"One of the mysteries is how Burma, with minimal foreign exchange reserves...manages to run massive annual trade deficits of up to 24 percent of GDP without a corresponding increase in external debt," he said.

"In the three years up to 2000, the external trade deficit averaged over $1.4 billion annually while over the same period external debt increased by just under $1 billion."

Income from foreign investment, informal border trade and remittances from overseas workers accounted for some of the difference, Milne said. "But a major part must be made up by the proceeds of the illegal drug trade."

Economic aid would lessen the government's dependence on drug money, analysts say, but would allow the government to hang on longer without making concessions to the democracy movement.

The West has to decide which is the lesser of the two evils.

Suu Kyi's release last week was carefully choreographed by the junta to try to win an easing of sanctions.

On the day she was released, the government issued a statement through a public relations firm in the United States.

It made no mention of Suu Kyi but pledged to "work together with countries near and far in the fight against terrorism, the total eradication of narcotic drugs and also in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS which are threatening mankind."

Diplomats say the stress on fighting drugs and terrorism was designed specifically to send a message to Western governments—help us and we'll help you.

"They want the sanctions lifted, and they know they have to offer something in return," said a Western diplomat based in Bangkok. "They've released Suu Kyi but that won't be enough. So drugs is an area they can use to try to get some concessions." But analysts say releasing Suu Kyi may backfire on the junta.

In many Western nations, voters would put a far higher priority on the domestic battle against drugs than on the fight for democracy in a far-off nation.

But while countries like Laos—also a drugs producer with a poor human rights record—hold little sway over the national consciousness in the United States and in European countries, Suu Kyi has ensured that Burma keeps making headlines.

Widely recognized around the world, and holder of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, she is regarded by most Western governments as Burma's legitimate ruler. She has long supported economic sanctions and said this month her stance had not changed.

Unless she changes her position, it is unlikely Western governments will agree to any deal easing sanctions on Burma in return for cooperation in eradicating narcotics. The fight for democracy will take precedence over the fight against drugs.

***Reuters***

# Swedish fathers and Pinoy papas

## AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

DURING a trip to Sweden about seven or eight years ago, one of the things that struck me was the number of "involved" fathers I encountered during our weekend jaunts. At first, I was astonished, then pleasantly surprised at the sight of men pushing baby trams, carrying toddlers in their arms or bearing them high on their shoulders. Soon, though the sight became so common I had ceased to be amazed.

I remembered the Swedish fathers during a recent lunch hosted by Swedish Ambassador Ulf Hakansson for Gun-Britt Andersson, State Secretary for Development Cooperation of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The ambassador had gathered a group of women from media, from government and NGOs to discuss with the visiting official issues of interest to women in both our countries.

One of these was the status of women. Sweden, of course, has been held up as a "model" of a gender-fair society, ranking second or third among all nations of the world in the United Nations Index of Gender Equality. But this social (r)evolution was not the product of benign enlightenment, said Andersson, but rather of a deliberate state policy to recognize, and indeed encourage, the role of women as equal partners not just in development but also within the family.

Thus one of the first laws and policies to be enacted after the War was establishment of a network of day-care centers, to enable women with children to continue working outside the home without risking the welfare of their children. A similar policy on the establishment of homes for the elderly also served to help assist families; but especially women, cope with the challenges of caring for senior members.

* * *

**BUT this was not the most impressive factoid yet about Sweden.**

**Workers in Sweden, men or women, are entitled to 13 months (yes, 13 months, not weeks or days) parental leave upon the birth of a child, and are entitled to receive 80 percent of their salaries. And, unlike here in the Philippines where men, who are entitled to seven days' paternal leave, prefer instead to continue working and settle for the cash equivalent, "Swedish men usually choose to avail of their leave so they can help look after the baby," said Andersson.**

**In Sweden, "men take their family responsibilities seriously," notes Andersson. But even in a seeming paradise like Sweden, the realities of family life intrude into idealism and even ideology. Though day-care lifts much of the burden of childcare from women's shoulders, it still hasn't pushed women to full parity with men in terms of promotion or power in the workplace. "If you take a look at who occupy the top management positions in the biggest corporations," points Andersson, "you'll see very few women there." Apparently, "someone still has to take time to fetch the children from the center, to look after the home," she adds.**

* * *

ANDERSSON confesses that she hasn't exactly been a "lifetime" feminist, having grown up among seven brothers (and one sister), and immersed in the male-dominated world of economics and science during her college studies.

But though she never felt personally disadvantaged as a young woman, Andersson admits that "once you see the reality" of the disparities between men and women, "you naturally become a feminist."

In her work with the foreign affairs ministry, Andersson has been deeply involved for years in the serious problem of trafficking of women and children, for purposes of both sexual exploitation and forced labor.

Sweden, Thailand and the Philippines have in fact initiated efforts among governments in Europe and Asia, to "demonstrate a joint political commitment...to address the problem and to make a significant contribution to any global, regional or national effort to end trafficking."

One of the efforts that Andersson is particularly interested in pursuing is a study on the "demand" side for sexual services. In fact, pilot research is being carried out in India, Italy, Japan, Sweden and Thailand and the results of the study should be ready for presentation by August.

* * *

**IN SWEDEN, there is already a law that criminalizes the act of "paying for sexual services." In the Philippines, in contrast, the crime of prostitution is defined solely as "soliciting" payment for sexual services. So while in Sweden customers are held equally, if not more, responsible as sex workers and sex profiteers, in the Philippines, the only criminals are deemed to be the women "selling" their sexual services. This, even if pimps and bar and brothel owners earn so much more from the exploitation of women, while the customers are at least as guilty for creating and sustaining the demand that allows this business to flourish.**

**By the way, a bill penalizing the trafficking of women and children for purposes of prostitution and forced labor was only recently passed by the House of Representatives. It now passes to the Senate, where it is hoped it could be speedily deliberated on, passed and perhaps signed into law—before the year is over?**

**One of the more exciting features of the bill is that in effect it changes the definition of prostitution. It lifts the onus from the women and children—who are really victims rather than criminals—and instead penalizes the proprietors, pimps and profiteers behind the sex industry, as well as the customers.**

**We still have a long way to go toward achieving the same level of gender equality that obtains in Sweden, but through the bill and other means, we're getting there.**

# A question of responsibility

## PUBLIC LIVES

*Randy David*

HOW much responsibility should we take for our individual actions? How much responsibility should we assume for the actions of our children? How much responsibility should we bear for the kind of society we have? Or for the kind of world we have?

All over the world thoughtful people are asking these questions, especially as they confront what seem like bizarre, irrational and outrageous actions committed by fellow human beings. Events such as the methodical hijacking and suicidal crashing of passenger jet planes into buildings on Sept. 11, 2001 instantly come to mind. But less catastrophic events happen every day that should elicit reflection.

Often we release ourselves from the moral grip of these events by taking refuge behind simplistic labels. "Terrorism" is one such label. It has no doubt secured for the United States and its allies a warrant to launch a war against nations, groups and individuals it tags as terrorists. But it is doubtful whether the use of this term has allowed us to understand events better so that we may lessen the possibility of their repetition in the future.

For a long time, Germany wrestled with the haunting memory of the Holocaust, the mass destruction of Jews under the direction of Adolf Hitler. Many Germans denied knowing the magnitude of the massacre and the circumstances that induced a certain blindness in those who stood by while their own neighbors searched vainly for hiding places to avoid being rounded up. Even more important, they denied responsibility for the unspeakable atrocities committed by the Nazi leadership. They claimed to be ordinary citizens with no power to do anything to stop their leaders who had gone mad. They were completely oblivious of their own silent hopes and desires that bound them to Hitler's policies toward the Jews.

Daniel Goldhagen's 1996 book, "Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust," confronts them with the responsibility they must share with those who directly participated in the extermination of six million Jews. Goldhagen carefully documents numerous instances when ordinary Germans with no formal affiliation to the Nazis instigated or joined in hate campaigns against the Jews in the years preceding the Holocaust. He argues that Hitler was but a symptom of a pathological culture that had taken root in the German psyche long before the Nazis embarked on a systematic elimination of the Jewish people.

The long-standing debate on the extent of individual accountability recently resurfaced in Germany when a 19-year-old high school student who had been expelled from school ran amok and killed 13 of his former teachers, 2 fellow students and a policeman. What became known as the Gutenberg massacre provoked a nation-wide discussion on the question of shared responsibility. Many asked how it was possible for the parents of this disturbed boy not to have known of his problems at school. Others blamed the procedures of the school. Still others raised the fear of failure that is inculcated in students in the extremely competitive environment of modern society.

But one writer from the German newspaper Die Zeit, Ilka Piepgras, made a point that goes against the theme of societal culpability. In an article written for Newsday (reprinted in Today 5/17/02), Piepgras writes: "Germans tend to blame their society as a whole for any kind of personal misstep, instead of expecting individuals to account for themselves...We like to think of ourselves as victims: of an abusive dictator such as Hitler or a dictatorial system such as socialism, which is one reason why the process of coming to terms with Hitler's horrible reign has never really worked out. People would blame him and his thugs, and not question the role they or their families played during the Third Reich."

Piepgras's view is that all too often our readiness to blame society tends to blind us to our own personal accountability not only for our actions but for the state of affairs that victimizes us all. This is understandable. It is not easy to cultivate the kind of introspection and moral imagination that allows us to criticize ourselves and to admit that there may indeed be instances when we quietly applaud something that is patently wrong.

"Man is very well defended against himself," says Nietzsche, "against his own spying and sieges; usually he is able to make out no more of himself than his outer fortifications. The actual stronghold is inaccessible to him, even invisible, unless friends and enemies turn traitor and lead him there by the secret path."

I think we slowly gain access to this stronghold as we develop the habit of seeing what we take for granted with a new pair of eyes. Yitzhak Laor, an Israeli poet, had such an insight recently when the Ministry of Education of Israel instructed schools to require schoolchildren to bring parcels and write appreciative letters to Israeli soldiers after they laid siege on the Palestinian refugee camp of Jenin. On seeing his own 7-year-old son scribble a letter, he notes in an essay for the London Review of Books: "Hundreds of thousands of children wrote such letters when the war against a civilian population was at its most extreme. Imagine the ideological commitment of those children in the future."

Looking at our own country, I think it is useful to ask how much responsibility we must all personally bear for a nation half of whose citizens must live without hope.

* * *

*Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph*

# A day in Erap's trial

## COMMENTARY

*Raul J. Palabrica*

LAST Wednesday, I went to the Sandiganbayan to assi INQUIRER reporters Cynthia Balana and Volt Contreras wh were summoned by the court to testify on the contemp charge filed by PlunderWatch against former Presiden Estrada, his son Jinggoy, Sen. Luisa Estrada and lawye Rene Saguisag and Raymond Fortun.

An estimated 50 policemen equipped with helmets an riot shields ringed the court premises in anticipation of a possible demonstration by pro-Estrada supporters. Except for two solitary souls who stood near the front steps and appeared curiou about the goings-on inside, the much-vaunted Erap diehard were nowhere to be found.

Shortly after Estrada and son Jinggoy entered the court room, the justices of the Sandiganbayan's special divisio emerged from a hidden entrance and took their seats.

The "chronological difference" (or age gap, to use a les political correct term) between the contending lawyers immediately showed when they were ordered by the court t enter their appearance.

PlunderWatch was represented by three young lawyers—Marife Yuvienco, Marichu Lambino and Jayson Lamchek. The two lady lawyers appeared to be in their late 20s and projected a "don't tread on me" image.

Lamchek, who I was told is a 1998 graduate of the UP College of Law, had at boyish look that seemed out of synch with the gravity of the action they had in mind against somebody who was once the most powerful public official of the land.

Ranged against them were former Justice Manuel Pamaran (representing Estrada), ex-UP Law Dean Pacifico Agabin (for Saguisag), Cleofe Versola (for Fortun) and Prospero Crescini (for Jinggoy). At least three decades separated the latter from the PlunderWatch lawyers.

### Different styles

The opposing lawyers showed contrasting styles in arguing their positions. Lamchek, who acted as lead counsel for his group, argued in a measured and deliberate manner. At times, he hesitated in his answer when questioned by the justices.

He was hard-pressed in explaining to the court why his group, which is neither a part of the prosecution nor of the defense, has the right to ask the court to cite Estrada and company for contempt.

The contempt charge is based on the statements they allegedly made that tended to undermine the integrity of the judicial system and the people's faith in the ability of the courts to render impartial justice to the accused in the plunder case.

Pamaran spoke in an oratorical manner. So high was the decibel of his voice that even the people who stayed outside of the courtroom for lack of available seats could hear what he was saying.

Instead of directly addressing the justices, he faced the audience to state that the contempt charge has become moot because the court has already issued an order excusing Estrada from attending the hearings of the case in exchange for his not criticizing the court.

Pamaran's stentorian delivery was joined by the baritone voice of Crescini. Speaking in defense of the young Estrada, Crescini wondered why his client was included in the contempt charge considering that he has not said anything derogatory to the court.

Measured by today's sound standards, the defense lawyers can be compared to stereo speakers tuned to full volume, while the PlunderWatch lawyers sounded like a transistor radio with a new set of batteries.

### Lots of heart

The lawyers may have been carried away by their intense desire to defend their respective positions that on a number of occasions they talked at the same time. It was like a concert of broken tunes.

The justices were forced to "shut up" the lawyers who unnecessarily butted in when another lawyer had the floor to prevent the proceedings from degenerating into a shouting match.

Noticeably, the lawyers were respectful to each other. No insulting or disparaging words were exchanged. Both sides performed their tasks in a professional manner. The prevailing attitude seemed to be "nothing personal, just all in a day's work."

It was apparent though from the way the defense lawyers comported themselves that they were trying to subtly browbeat their counterpart into giving up the fight to have Estrada and company cited for contempt.

To the credit of the youthful lawyers, their lack of experience (compared to that of their elderly opponents) was more than compensated by the fire in their belly. At times, they stammered in answering the questions of the justices. Once, they were admonished for interrupting Pamaran's long-winded spiel.

But those missteps did not keep them from fighting back whenever there was an opportunity to do so. They stuck to their guns. Whatever inadequacies they may have had were more than compensated by their strong heart and dedication to the cause for which they were in court that day.

After almost an hour of verbal skirmishing, the court decided to hold in abeyance its decision on PlunderWatch's contempt charges. It will have to resolve first the issue on whether the group has the personality to take that action.

With the hearing on the charges for that day over, Pamaran, Crescini and Agabin, in true cavalier fashion, approached the PlunderWatch lawyers and shook their hands, as if to say "you did a good job."

Friendly shoulder pats and light banter among the erstwhile quarreling lawyers ended that morning's hearing.

### Promising lawyers

Without making a pre-judgment on the validity of the contempt charges, the performance of the PlunderWatch lawyers that day was heartwarming. Here was a group of young lawyers who, with their credentials and drive, could easily find a slot in any of the country's prestigious law offices.

But they opted to work for an organization that wants to make sure the proceedings that will determine the culpability of a former president for violation of the plunder law moves at the right pace and in the right direction.

They are exchanging the money and fame they would have earned had they followed the usual career path of lawyers with the satisfaction of doing what they think will be in the best interests of the country. Like preferring to receive psychic income rather than material income.

Hopefully, their commitment to their cause is not just a flash in the pan. Or something indulged in the process of growing up.

If these lawyers stay on their present course as part of a lifetime commitment, there is reason to believe that not all is lost for the legal profession in our country.

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## TALK of the TOWN

*Editor* **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

# Is pork good for the people?

THE DAY after the summit of political parties declared unity in pushing for the country's economic development, members of the House of Representatives fought over their share of next year's P34.8-billion infrastructure budget of the public works department.

Many House members want equal sharing of the P34.8 billion, which is separate from the Priority Development Assistance Fund, a pork barrel or money that funds projects in each legislator's district. A representative of a district gets P65 million in PDAF and a sectoral representative, P35 million. A senator is allocated P200 million in pork. The set-up promotes wheeling-and-dealing and patronage politics.

The fight highlighted the importance House members put on pork barrel, a source of kickbacks. Because of corruption, the roads, bridges and school buildings that a legislator delivers to a district are likely to be shoddy.

To prevent the misuse of public funds, certain groups are demanding participation in the identification and monitoring of pork barrel projects. They want transparency in the use of taxpayers' money.

## 'Do away with it'

**By Rep. Satur C. Ocampo**
*President, Bayan Muna*

THE ROLE that pork barrel plays in political wheeling-and-dealing and the corruption associated with it from the highest to the lowest levels of government are already well-known and widely despised. Even the very inequity of its distribution affirms that the logic of political largesse operates. The resulting political culture in which influence peddling and self-interest override serving the people is truly condemnable.

There are other insidious effects. Profound dependencies are created with entire communities entrapped in feudal relations of patronage with government officials. Thus, we in Bayan Muna will support a move to abolish the pork barrel, although in itself this will not remedy the age-old problem of elite domination of Philippine political and economic life. But at least we would do away with one of the most brazen ways in which political patronage is exercised.

### Politics of change

Still, pork barrel is a fact of Philippine politics that Bayan Muna is challenged to deal with in the context of our avowed "politics of change."

Trying to wield positively what has traditionally been used as a tool for political and economic self-interest is by no means easy. But we have taken up the task.

We stand by the principle that genuine involvement of the people is the key. Local Bayan Muna chapters and their partner people's organizations are crucial for drawing in our constituents who come mainly from the basic sectors of workers, peasants and fisherfolk, including the special groups of national minorities, women and children. Politicized and vigilant, their direct and active participation is vital to the politics of change.

All of Bayan Muna's projects under the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) are identified by our chapters and allied sectoral organizations based on what they see as the people's needs and what will benefit them.

The projects are not dispensed as favors but as public services to which the people are entitled.

Our local organizations are also tasked with monitoring projects against possible anomalies among the contractors, suppliers and government agencies involved. Needless to say, Bayan Muna's leaders, staff and activists are subject to that same scrutiny, indeed, even more so. The projects are also used as venues for promoting the values of genuine public service.

### Poverty

For now, we are working hard to mitigate the adverse effects of the pork barrel system and to ensure transparency, accountability, and real benefits for the people. In any case, we are conscious that pork barrel projects have little impact on reducing systemic poverty.

Bayan Muna remains committed to addressing the basic problems of Philippine society. We are steadfast in taking stands on policies and legislation that uphold the interests and welfare of the majority. Most importantly, we place our faith in the people: in their organizations and in the social movement that struggles for the more truly liberating and democratic alternative.

Pork barrel projects are incidental to this and we will embrace a political set-up without them.

'Pork barrel projects have little impact on poverty'

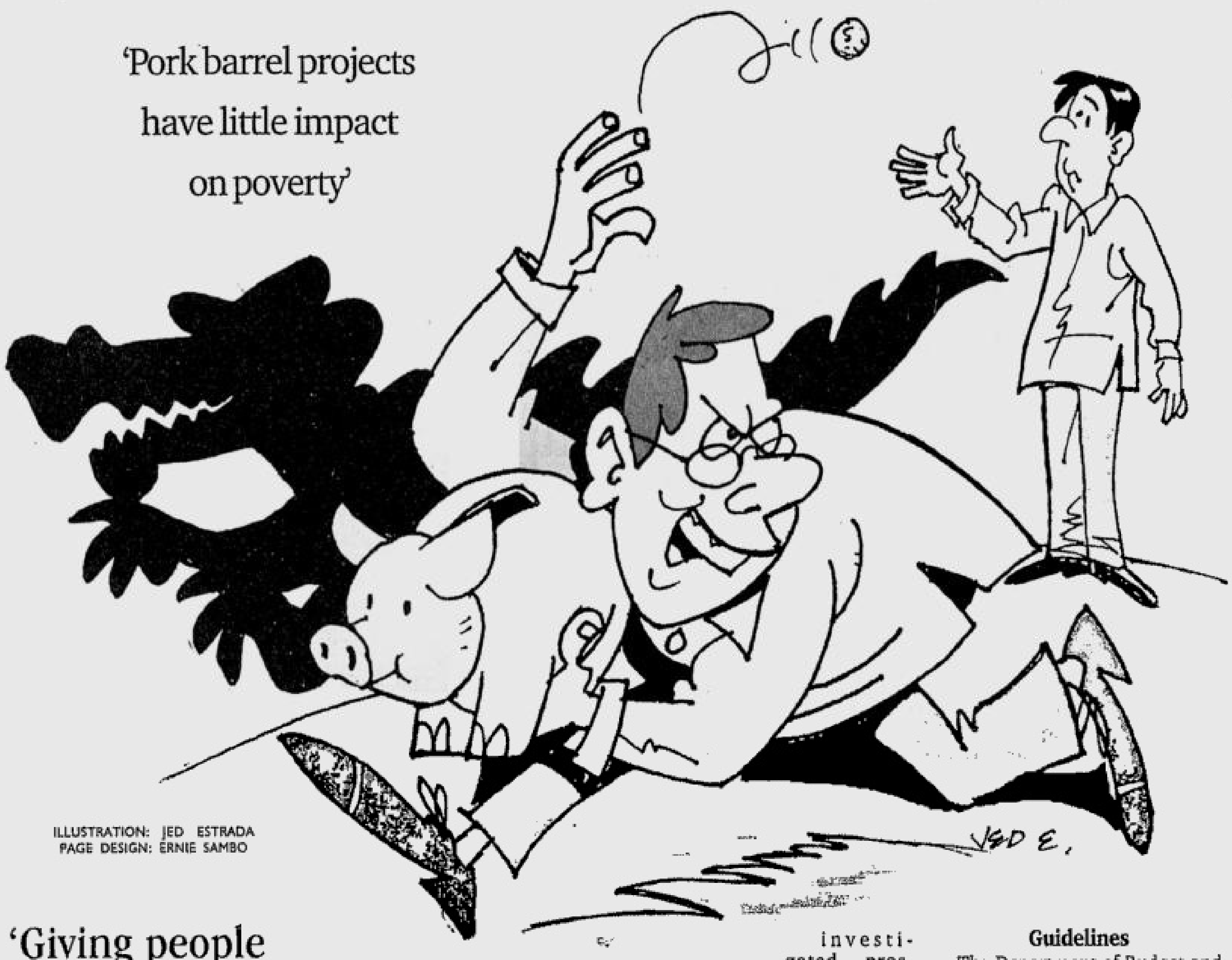

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA
PAGE DESIGN: ERNIE SAMBO

## 'Giving people their fair share'

**By Rep. Prospero A. Pichay Jr.**
*First District, Surigao del Sur (Lakas)*

LET me declare unequivocally that I am for the institution of pork barrel as a tool for equitable national development. Because of judicious and transparent spending of my pork barrel allocation, and my advocacy for more development projects in my district, the well being of my people in the first district of Surigao del Sur has improved.

God willing, if I continue doing my job in my second term as congressman, I can bring home more funding, including pork barrel, so that, someday, Surigaonons will no longer have to migrate to the urban centers in search of greener pastures.

Incidentally, pork barrel is a time-honored practice in most national legislatures worldwide.

The pejorative roots of "pork barrel" spring from an American pundit's 1919 article on US legislators scrambling for budget allocations for their districts. He said the spectacle was akin to Negro slaves in the 1800s scrambling for their pieces of salt pork set out by plantation owners in barrels as a reward.

As early as then, the media already looked askance at this practice.

Still, the brickbats do little to change my philosophy:

1. It is a congressman's role to seek a bigger share of the national budget for his district.

2. There should be an equitable sharing of the development funds to ensure that all Filipinos get their fair share of the national budget.

3. There should be accountability. All cases of malfeasance of public funds should be rigorously investigated, prosecuted and punished to discourage graft and corruption in all three branches of government.

It's only logical for members of Congress to help identify the infrastructure and development projects in a particular district. After all, we constantly consult with our people on their needs.

Congressmen also have the added responsibility of not only crafting national laws, but also of appropriating and passing the national budget.

Congress plays a critical role in our democracy's checks and balance because it has oversight on the operations and spending of the executive. Thus, legislatures worldwide give inputs on the programs and projects to be implemented by the executive.

It's only fair that each district gets an equal share of government funds. One mechanism to promote equitable distribution is pork barrel.

### Guidelines

The Department of Budget and Management has set down clear guidelines on projects and programs funded through the PDAF.

Aside from the PDAF, members of Congress designate infrastructure projects in departments like public works, agriculture, transport and communication, health, and education. For public works, projects are apportioned among the districts through the following criteria: 20 percent, population; 25 percent, equal sharing; and 55 percent, scarcity of projects. I suggested this formula in the last Congress, replacing the old formula that was biased in favor of urban areas.

However, I must stress that, in all cases, the executive branch implements these projects. Legislators don't handle the money. Rather, funds go to the implementing agencies and the recipients of the approved soft projects.

We have heard proposals to use pork barrel for other purposes like Napocor's purchased power adjustment and projects of the Department of Health. But in exchange, our people will be deprived of the local programs and projects they themselves have identified as essential.

Come to think of it, people are so quick to condemn pork barrel in the abstract, not knowing that they benefit from its projects right where they live.

But I can only speak firsthand about my district, and I am inviting everyone to visit us in Surigao del Sur to see where the public funds for my people went.

### Roads

When I assumed office in 1998, just 22 km of our 225 km-road network was made of concrete. Now, 80 km is made of concrete. The remainder is well maintained. These are passable even during the rainy season. The bulk is farm-to-market roads for maximum impact to help boost job prospects and incomes. We also have three new bridges worth P45 million, benefiting barangays that used to be isolated for days during heavy rains.

Out of our 200 barangays, 50 were without power when I assumed office. Now, only eight remain un-energized. We have built new water systems for five municipal districts benefiting 100,000 people; new classrooms, social halls, health centers, and day-care centers, especially in the long-neglected barangays, once the breeding ground for insurgency.

Contractors implementing the projects are chosen through honest-to-goodness sealed bidding. In fact, my political rivals implement a lot of the projects, since they have the capital and experience. But woe unto them if they short-change the people and produce shoddy infrastructure. They know that I am not out to get kickbacks or favors, and that I insist they do a good job.

I know that the experience of the first district of Surigao del Sur is not an exception. Many others in the House are charting a progressive road for their constituents.

This is the reason I entered politics. I wanted time to no longer stand still for my people in Mindanao, especially in Surigao del Sur. I know that much remains to be done, but I feel I am on the right path.

## 'Make projects transparent'

**By Guillermo M. Luz**
*Executive Director, Makati Business Club Member, Transparent Accountable Governance Project*

THE MORE appropriate question might be "How can we make pork good for the people?" The fact remains that government funds need to be spent for various government projects around the country. The reality is that executive departments, senators, congressmen and local government units make the decisions.

Thus, to make pork more healthy for the people several questions must be answered.

How are projects selected? Is there a "needs analysis" done? By whom?

How are projects (and thus funds) allocated? By need, by population? Who decides this? What criteria are used?

How are projects bid out? How are they implemented?

To better appreciate the pork barrel issue, one needs to understand that there are actually two types of allocation in Congress. The senators' allocation is chargeable to the Department of Public Works and Highways' annual budget. In other words, they are allowed to submit up to a certain amount of projects, which the DPWH is supposed to implement every year. The annual limit per senator is said to be P100 million or a potential P2.4 billion a year. (***Editor's note:*** *A neophyte senator told the* INQUIRER *that he was entitled to P100 million last year because he assumed office on the second half of the year. He says he is entitled to P200 million this year.*)

It is worth pointing out that not all senators submit P100 million worth of projects every year and that some senators do not use up the allocation at all.

### Two ways

For the House, the pork is cut two ways. The first way is through the DPWH, just like the senators, but with a reported estimated amount of P35 million per congressman per year. The second way is through a fund called the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF).

For June-December last year, it was reported by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) that PDAF was running from a low of P500,000 to a high of P7.5 million per congressman. PDAF-listed projects are supposed to be implemented by agencies other than the DPWH. Just counting the items chargeable against the DPWH budget, the congressmen account for P7.56 billion of pork per year (e.g., 216 x P35M).

Collectively then, Congress has P10 billion in projects which it can submit per year to the DPWH (ex-PDAF).

How are these allocated? The DBM has issued guidelines (No. 479, dated March 1, 2002) on how these can be allocated. For instance, PDAF projects must come from any of the following fields: education, health, social welfare, livelihood and employment generation, science, technology and information/communications equipment, and social and economic infrastructure (e.g., roads, flood control, water supply and school buildings). On the other hand, pork barrel projects chargeable against the DPWH can only be used for construction, repair or rehabilitation of roads, bridges, farm-to-market roads, flood control, water supply, multipurpose buildings, school buildings, and the acquisition of infrastructure equipment.

Thus, while we don't know how projects are actually selected, at least we know what types of projects are eligible for funding.

Where does the money go? For congressmen, that is fairly easy to follow. It's supposed to go into their respective congressional district. For senators, the money is supposed to be spread across the country because they were elected nationwide. Following this, you would expect some geographic dispersal of the funds and projects. Well, yes and no. The fund releases for June-December 2001 show varying degrees of dispersal. For instance, Sen. Robert Barbers had P98.2 million worth of projects chargeable to the DPWH. These were spread out among all regions (although not in equal amounts) except for the Cordillera. His project allocation ran from a low of P1.3 million in the ARMM to a high of P38.7 million in Region XIII.

### Lipa City

Senate President Franklin Drilon had an allocation of P98.1 million, in all regions but Region XII. They ran from a low of P500,000 in Regions X and XI to a high of P33.5 million in Region VI. Contrast this with Sen. Ralph Recto who allocated his entire P100 million to Region IV, in fact all of it to Batangas (and most of it to Lipa City)!

It is worth noting that there are no reported allocations for six senators—Joker Arroyo, Robert Jaworski, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Serge Osmeña III , John Osmeña and Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Clearly, geographic dispersal is not a hallmark of this program. Neither do we know much how these are bid out or who wins the bids.

The main point is, while the projects may be necessary, there needs to be more transparency and accountability in the project selection and use of funds. As citizens, taxpayers, and voters, we need to know that our hard-earned money is being put to good use where it is needed most. Over the years, the use of pork barrel has earned the reputation of being a politically motivated tool. With elections just two years away and the recent controversy in the House over more allocations, that reputation will take even deeper root.

The government (and that includes Congress) must be more transparent about how public funds are spent.

*(For more information about how and where pork is spent, go to www.tag.org.ph, the website of the Transparent Accountable Governance Project.)*

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# CIA report envisioned Sept. 11 attacks

**WASHINGTON—Despite White House avowals that it would have been impossible to conceive before Sept. 11 of a hijacked plane being used to attack US targets, a 1999 report for the CIA envisioned a very similar threat.**

It predicted Islamic militant Osama bin Laden would retaliate "in a spectacular way" against Washington for US cruise missile strikes in 1998 against training facilities of his al-Qaida network in Afghanistan.

"Suicide bombers belonging to al-Qaida's martyrdom battalion could crash-land an aircraft packed with high explosives . . . into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency, or the White House," the report said.

The report was commissioned by The National Intelligence Council, which reports to CIA Director George Tenet. It was conducted by the research arm of the Library of Congress, well before Bush took office.

One work in a vast output of terrorism studies, the report has long been public and is available on the Internet.

But its on-target prediction prompted new questions on Friday over how much the government knew about potential threats, in the wake of disclosures that President George W. Bush was alerted in his daily CIA intelligence briefing last August to the possibility of a hijacking by al-Qaida.

Four hijacked US airliners slammed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field on Sept. 11, killing about 3,000 people. Washington has blamed al-Qaida for the attacks.

"I don't think anybody could have predicted that these people would take an airplane and slam it into the World Trade Center, take another one and slam it into the Pentagon," Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, said Thursday.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said on Thursday the alert to Bush did not say there was a chance planes would be used by al-Qaida as suicide bombs.

"Traditional hijackings prior to Sept. 11—it might as well be a different word in a different language from what we have all unfortunately come to know about the post-9/11 world," he said.

On Friday, Fleischer played down the significance of the report, saying it was primarily a study of the thinking of potential terrorists and not based on specific intelligence.

He said he had not learned of the report until Friday, but noted it had also long been available to Congress, some of whose members have called for an investigation into potential administration intelligence failures.

"I think what it shows is this information that was out there did not raise enough alarms with anybody . . . because it was not intelligence information," Fleischer said.

An intelligence official said there was no indication CIA Director Tenet, who briefs Bush, had seen the report. The report was commissioned to be used in a larger study of global trends, he said. It is 125 pages long, plus notes. *Reuters*

# Taliban leader defiant

CAIRO, Egypt—The future of the United States in Afghanistan is "fire, hell and total defeat," the fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar was quoted as saying by a leading pan-Arab newspaper Friday.

The London-based newspaper Asharq al-Awsat says it interviewed Omar in the mountains of Afghanistan, but it does not say when. Nor does its report make clear whether its reporter, Badie Qorhani, actually met Omar. It says the interview was arranged by Omar's unidentified media adviser, who translated the questions and answers between Arabic and Pashtu.

The whereabouts of the secretive, media-shy Omar, who led the Taliban regime in Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, has not been known since a coalition of US-backed forces overran his stronghold of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan in December.

The US and interim Afghan governments are looking for him. Judicial authorities want to know, among other things, how much support the Taliban gave to the al-Qaida group of Osama bin Laden, the prime suspects in the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Striking a note of defiance, Omar was quoted as saying that the war in Afghanistan has only entered a new phase and that Bin Laden, who also is a fugitive, is still alive. The report did not reveal when he last had contact with Bin Laden.

"We don't consider the battle ended in Afghanistan . . . the battle has begun and its fires are picking up. These fires will reach the White House, because it is the center of injustice and tyranny" for its war on Islam, Omar was quoted as saying.

Omar was quoted as saying that as the casualties increased during the Afghanistan war last year, "we decided to pull out from the country and start a guerrilla warfare from the mountains so we can protect the lives of the poor struggling people."

The interview appeared as 1,000 British troops deployed against what their commander described as a "substantial enemy force" in eastern Afghanistan. The deployment came after Australian soldiers came under fire from suspected al-Qaida or Taliban fighters on Thursday. *AP*

# Probers say they've found Pearl's body

KARACHI, Pakistan—Investigators searched a single-room shed on Friday where they believe Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl was held for "two or three days," before being killed and his dismembered body buried nearby.

Mansour Mughal, chief investigator into Pearl's disappearance, said in a telephone interview that police found a chair that resembled the one in photographs sent to news agencies by Pearl's kidnappers.

Mughal, who was reached on a mobile phone from within the 3-meter by 4-meter single-room building, said buttons from the shirt Pearl was wearing in the photographs also were found.

The room itself resembled the background in the photographs.

"We think this is the room where Pearl may have been held for two or three days," Mughal said.

The body was found in a shallow 1.3-meter grave not far from the room, he said. The body was found in 10 pieces, including the severed head, said Mughal. The body was taken away in an ambulance.

A hair sample was taken for DNA testing, Mughal said.

The walls of the shed were splattered with blood, samples of which also have been taken for DNA testing, Mughal said. The jacket of the track suit that Pearl was photographed wearing was also found buried in the grave with the body, he said. *AP*

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More than just the prospect of high paying jobs here and abroad, an IT education is seen as the wave of the future. With this vision of the future, schools offering IT courses have sprouted in the country. Most of them are laying claim to being at the edge of the IT education. But one school stands out as having gone beyond the edge: the University of the East.

"While other schools are claiming to be, and probably are, at the edge of IT education, the UE has reached that edge and has gone beyond it to explore the new frontiers of the information technology and our students are part of this exploration," Panfilo O. Domingo, UE chairman, said.

The UE investment of P320 million for IT infrastructure is designed to ensure that students will not just learn theories, but experience IT. They would be capable of adjusting or even contributing to the rapid growth of IT innovations, he added.

A bulk of this investment went to the connecting by fiber optics wiring all units and departments of the UE campuses in Manila and Caloocan in a Local Area Network (LAN) connected to a high-speed, high-capacity central server. This allows UE students to access information from any computer station in the campus, including its library, Nomer de la Cruz, UE vice president for information technology, said.

All the campuses have also been connected by a Wide Area Network (WAN). This makes the UE's various campuses the first cyber campus in the country. The UE uses a microwave antenna to connect to the Internet and interconnect its campuses. Soon other UE campuses will be similarly wired, De la Cruz declared.

The WAN allows for video teleconferencing so that students at the Caloocan campus can join lectures being held at the Manila campus, access grades, course studies and the internet from any of the university's computers. Telephone calls between campuses are also made as if these were extension calls within a building.

The P.O. Domingo Center for Information Technology (POD-CIT) houses all UE servers and provides a central data storage and management system which ensures that students doing work or studying via the Internet or the satellite links between campuses would not lose data even if there is connection interruption, De la Cruz said.

A single server is capable of being accessed by as many as 200 students simultaneously. This is because each server is capable of receiving and sending one billion bytes of information per second. Fiber optics makes transmission faster as a single wire can carry as many as 10,000 connections compared to one in an ordinary telephone wire.

The UE has installed a security system to guard against internal or external hackers. With its new "smart" card student and employee identification cards, the campus premises could be secured from outsiders while allowing students easy access to the internet. The security system will also ensure that only bona fide students will have access to their own records and grades.

**Pentium 4.** Students try out the new computers with the most advanced Pentium 4 processors that will be installed in all UE IT classroom and Internet rooms.

The UE also used part of its P320 million investment to purchase the latest computers with Pentium 4 processors, providing UE students with the most advanced and fastest computers available. With these IT infrastructure, students will not just be studying IT but will be applying and experiencing what they learned. This would make UE IT graduates the most prepared for developmental endeavors as the country becomes a competitive participant in globalization.

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THE University of the East today can proudly claim to leadership in information technology education.

Among the UE infrastructure that provide UE students with experience in actual IT application are the following:

Online Campus System - All units and departments of the UE campuses in Manila, Caloocan and other satellite campuses have been Local Area Network (LAN) connected. This virtual oneness gives reality to the policy of "One UE, One System, One Database."

Wireless Network - The UE uses a microwave antenna to connect to the Internet and to interconnect the campuses. The Wide Area Network (WAN) connection is the first fully wireless connection of university campuses in the Philippines.

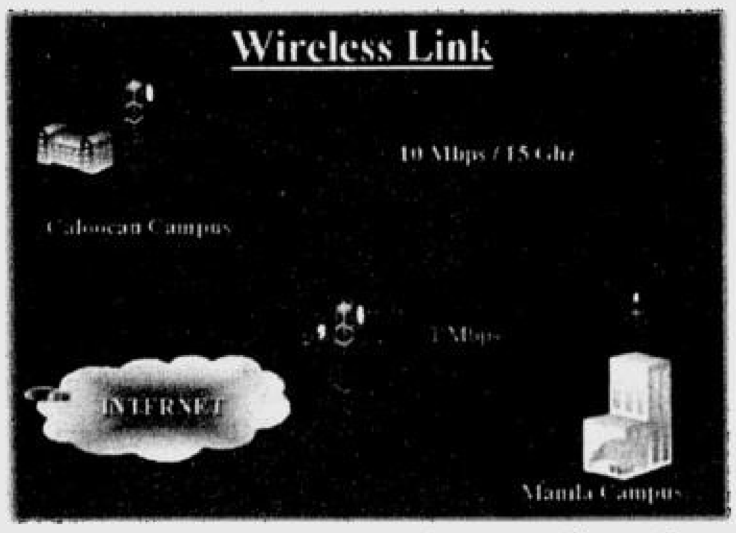
Network System Management - The UE has installed a server farm at its P.O. Domingo Center for Information Technology capable of rapid data transmission, and prevents lose of data even if there is a connection interruption.

Smart Card ID System - ID cards imbedded with microchips ensure the easy and proper identification of students and employees entering the UE. The Smart ID has provisions for other transactions such as borrowing of books from the library, accessing grades, the Internet and even for payment of fees.

Lifetime e-mail account for all students - Students will get a free e-mail account which will allow them to access all UE facilities, including its library, grades and other information even from their homes. They will retain this e-mail account even after they have graduated.

Online Registration Module - A student can enrol from any of the UE campus computers using his Smart ID. Following on-screen instructions, the student may then enrol in a course and make payments via his Smart ID card.

Courseware: Instructional Technology - An interactive, computer-based learning material designed to improve teaching and learning efficiency by reinforcing concepts or topics identified as either difficult to teach or hard to understand. The multimedia Basic Accounting is the first ever developed in the Philippines.



## UE putting up new academic building at Caloocan campus

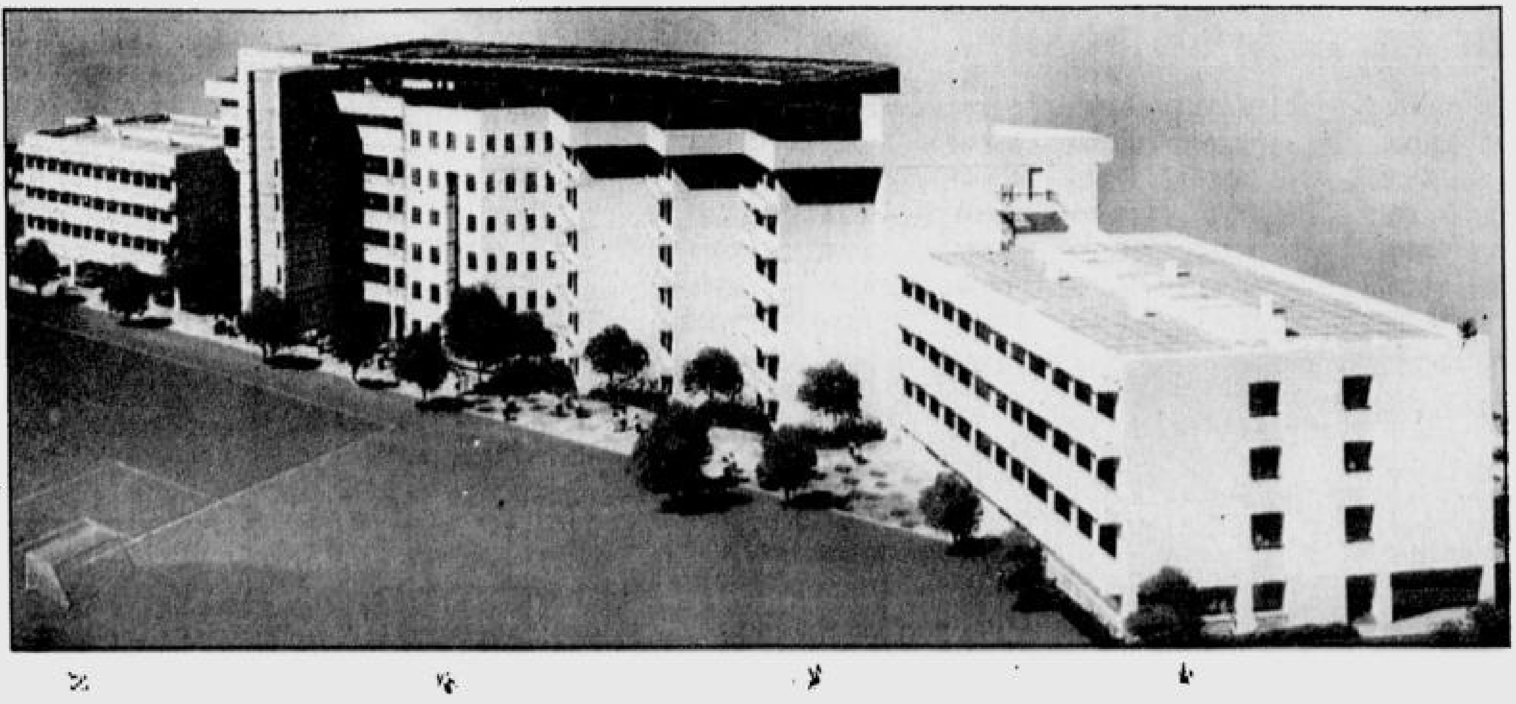
THE University of the East has invested another P255 million for the expansion and improvement of its Caloocan campus.

Construction activities for the first six storeys of its 11 storey Academic Building in Caloocan started early this year. Once completed, the new building will house the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts and Business Administration.

The whole sixth floor will house the library. UE's New Academic Building will have complete facilities including classrooms, multi-media rooms and computer rooms.

UE is also upgrading its College of Arts and Sciences building and Center for Review and Special Studies Library in its Manila campus.

Classrooms of the College of Computer Studies & Systems, the College of Dentistry and the College of Business Administration will be air-conditioned.



### Main thrust remains strong

## Quality education for the masses

AS educational institutions go, the Philippines can hold a candle against the best in western countries. In the University of the East alone, we have a venerable school that can boast of a history of grand vision and steady faith in the future of the country as demonstrated by the excellence of the alumni it has produced.

More significantly, in an era of high tuition fees, the UE continues to provide quality education for the masses. This has enabled a number of students from families of modest means to get the quality education they need to rise up the economic ladder while contributing to national development in the process.

Started modestly as an accountancy review class of 110 students by educators led by Dr. Francisco T. Dalupan Sr in 1946, the UE quickly rose to dominate the board examinations for Certified Public Accountants.

By the decade of the 1950s, the UE had established itself as one of the foremost business schools in the country offering baccalaureate degrees in business administration and business management.

Today, the UE continues to be seen as a major business school, with its graduates from such courses as Master in Business Administration (MBA), Master in Construction Management, Doctor in Business Administration and Doctor of Education, among the most respected in the country.

The UE graduate courses now include Master of Arts in Education, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Science and Master of Library and Information Sciences.

Because of the UE's commitment to quality education that could contribute to national development, the university also offers Bachelor of Science degrees in law, dental medicine, civil engineering, electrical engineering, electronic and communications engineering, mechanical engineering, elementary education, nutrition and dietetics and secondary education.

THE UE DIGITAL LIBRARY

Continuing its commitment to national development, the UE also offers degrees in IT courses such as Bachelor of Science degrees in computer sciences and information technology, even as it maintains a strong liberal arts faculty offering Bachelor of Arts degrees in communication, economics, English, Filipino, history, political science, sociology, legal management and international studies.

In keeping with its pledge to offer quality education for the masses, the UE maintains a strong associate in arts courses in computer technology, business administration, computer science, electronics technician and one-year certificates courses for professional education and machine shop technicians.

P. O. Domingo, the current UE Chairman, is the first alumnus to also become President of the university. He has been credited with not only turning around the financial fortunes of UE, but also with making it the leading school in IT education.

Another distinguished alumnus is current UE Vice President for Academic Affairs Baltazar Endriga.

Among the other prominent 'UE Warriors' are Senators Robert Jaworski and Noli de Castro, COA Chairman Guillermo Carague, PRC Chair Antonietta Fortuna-Ibe, former DBP President Remedios Macalincag, former PACCOR Chair Alicia Ll. Reyes, Noted Entrepreneur Elena Lim, former NBI Director & Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, former DTI Secretary Rizalino Navarro, and *PDI Editorial Consultant* Amando Doronila.

**University of the East**

**Courses offered SY 2002 - 2003**

**Enrollment Going On**

**MANILA CAMPUS**

**DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**
Majors: Financial Management, Production Operations Management, Marketing Management, Human Resource Management

**DOCTOR OF EDUCATION (EdD)**
Major in Educational Administration and Leadership

**MASTER IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**
**(MBA, Thesis or Non-Thesis)**

**MASTER IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**
**(MCM, Thesis or Non-Thesis)**

**MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION (MAEd)**
Majors: Educational Administration, English as a Second Language, Library Science, Filipino

**MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (MAT)**
Majors Biological Science, English, Filipino, Mathematics, History, Political Science, Physical Education

**MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA)**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS)**
Major in Environmental Education

**MASTER OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (MLIS)**

**BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB)**

**DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE (DDM)**

**Bachelor of Science (BS)**
Majors: Biology, Physics, Mathematics, Library and Information Science, Psychology, Statistics

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (AB)**
Majors: Communication Arts, Economics, English, Filipino, History, Political Science, Sociology, Legal Management, International Studies

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTANCY**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (BSBA)**
Majors: Banking and Finance, Economics, Management, Marketing

**BSBA MANAGEMENT**
A specialized program for entrepreneurs, or for executives in private enterprises or in government, or for officers in the AFP, without a college degree.

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**BACHELOR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (BSED)**
Majors: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, General Science, English, Filipino, History, Math and PEHM (combination of PE, Health Education and Music), Guidance and Counseling, Home Economics, Computer Education

**BACHELOR OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (BSEED)**
with areas of specialization in English, Filipino, Home Economics and Technology, Math, PE, Science and Health, Social Studies, pre-School or Early Childhood Education, Guidance and Counseling in Elementary Level

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS**

**ASSOCIATE IN COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY**
(2 -year Course)

**ASSOCIATE IN ARTS (pre-Dentistry)**

**ASSOCIATE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (ABA)**

**CERTIFICATE IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**
(One-year program for degree holders)

**COMPUTER TECHNICIAN - ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN**

**CALOOCAN CAMPUS**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**
**Courses Offered**
Bachelor of Arts major in Communication Arts
Bachelor of Arts Major in Mathematics
Associate in Arts (pre-Dentistry)

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**
**Courses Offered**
Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Majors: Economics, Finance-Banking, Management, Marketing

**COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS**
**Courses Offered**
Bachelor of Fine Arts

Majors: Interior Design, Advertising, Painting

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**
**Courses Offered**
Bachelor of Science in
Civil Engineering
Electronics and Communications Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Computer Engineering
One-Year Machine Shop Technician Course

**UE College Entrance Test (UE CET)**
*Schedule*

**Manila Campus**— Every Friday
until June 13 from 1-3 p.m.
Venue: UE FRASI C. Yap Seminar Rooms, 2/F Dalupan Bldg., 2219 C.M. Rector Ave., Manila

**Caloocan Campus** - Every Sat.
until June 13 from 8-11 am
Venue: Multi Purpose Hall, 3/F College of Engineering Bldg.,105 Samson Road, Caloocan City

**Available Scholarships & Service Grants:**

The New Integrated Scholarship Program ( University President Scholar, University Scholar, College Scholar), **Pres. Francisco Dalupan Sr. Scholarship; UE-Tan Yan Kee Foundation, Inc. Scholarship**;The Integrated Service Grant Program (Athletic Service Grant, Cultural Service Grant-UE Chorale, UE Bend, UE Dance Troupe, & UE Drama Co. ROTC Service Grant and Student Assistantship); Other Non-UE Funded Scholarships. For detailed info. call up the Dean of Students' Office, tel. nos. 735-54-71 loc. 423-or 735-85-64.

For Inquiries, visit/call up:

**UE MANILA:**

**Office of Admissions**
G/F Main Lobby, Dalupan Bldg.
Tel. 735-5471 local 398 or 399

**Office of the Registrar**
G/F P.O. Domingo Center for Information Technology Bldg.
Tel. 735-5471 loc 395 or 396

**e-mail: admission@ue.edu.ph**

**UE CALOOCAN:**

**Office of Admissions**
G/F Administration Building
Tel. 367-4787

**Office of the Registrar**
G/F Administration Building
Tel. 364-2601

**e-mail: admission@uec.edu.ph**

**Come visit us @ http://www.ue.edu.ph**

**TOO MANY KANGAROOS**

REUTERS

**Kangaroos hop across paddocks at the Puckapanya military training base, 100 km north of Melbourne, where professional shooters will begin killing 15,000 kangaroos on the Australian Army base in the next few days to reduce an estimated 100,000 kangaroos, many starving to death.**

ENRON PROBE

# White House faces subpoena

WASHINGTON—Sen. Joseph Lieberman threatened in a letter released on Friday to subpoena the White House to uncover administration contacts with now-bankrupt Enron Corp. Lieberman, the chair of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, alleged White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales was still refusing to commit to providing information sought by the committee back in March.

"I have concluded that I have no choice but to seek authorization to issue a subpoena to the (Executive Office of the President) at the committee's May 22 business meeting," the Connecticut Democrat said in a letter dated May 16 and released on Friday.

The letter was the latest in an escalating battle between Lieberman, who ran as the Democrats' vice-presidential candidate in the 2000 elections, and the Republican White House of President George W. Bush, who enjoyed substantial campaign support from Enron.

Gonzales said he thought Lieberman's actions were premature as the White House felt it was being cooperative.

"I'm quite frankly a little perplexed that the chairman felt a need to threaten a subpoena," he told reporters.

Enron, once the world's biggest energy trader, filed a record bankruptcy on Dec. 2 amid revelations of losses from off-the-books partnerships.

Before its spectacular failure, the company spent heavily on lobbying efforts to deregulate electricity markets, to limit efforts to regulate financial derivatives trading and to seek government funds and logistics help for various overseas projects.

Lieberman has said his committee needs the contact information to determine the federal government's role in the chain of events that led to Enron's collapse.

He told Gonzales he would hold off seeking subpoenas if the White House promptly takes steps to broaden the search and provides all information sought by the end of May.

The White House announced on Tuesday it had added two questions to a three-question survey sent on April 29 to every assistant, deputy assistant and special assistant to Bush, as well as to Vice President Dick Cheney's aides.

According to a copy of the revised survey, administration officials were asked whether they had contacts with Enron regarding "any energy regulation, policy, law, or other issue affecting Enron's business" between Jan. 20, 2001, and Dec. 2, 2001. This includes contacts with the White House energy task force that Cheney headed. ***Reuters***

## Probers quiz Sokor leader's son on bribery

SEOUL—State prosecutors questioned one of President Kim Dae-jung's sons on Thursday over his alleged links to a bribery scandal.

Kim Hong-gul, 39, the youngest of the president's three sons, is accused of receiving 2.9 billion won $2.2 million in bribes last year in return for business favors, said local news reports citing unidentified prosecution sources.

Hong-gul, who lives in Los Angeles, flew to the South Korean capital on Tuesday and spent a day consulting with his lawyer before being questioned Thursday.

His arrival at the state prosecutor's office was broadcast live on national television. Prosecutors declined to comment on details of the investigation.

"I feel ashamed for my parents," he told reporters. "I am sorry," he said, when asked by a reporter what he had to say to the people of South Korea.

Early this month, President Kim apologized to the nation for the suspected involvement of two of his sons in financial scandals. His government's popularity has suffered because of a series of corruption scandals involving officials and the president's relatives. ***AP***

REUTERS

**COMING OF AGE**

**An East Timorese boy holds the country's flag in Dili as the impoverished, battle-ravaged East Timor gets ready to declare independence at midnight tonight in front of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, 1,000 VIPs and an estimated 100,000 Timorese.**

## Church moves to bar priests in sex scandal

BOSTON—The scandal-plagued Catholic Church in Boston moved on Friday toward permanently barring from ministerial work priests who sexually molest minors, while Baltimore's archbishop apologized for the first time to victims of sex crimes, including a man who shot a local priest who he says abused him.

A panel set up by Boston Cardinal Bernard Law recommended the get-tough approach in a rough draft of an archdiocesan policy on how to prevent pedophilia by priests.

"Immediate removal from ministry upon credible allegation. No return to any assignment of a priest or permanent deacon who engages in sexual activities with a minor. No exceptions to this rule will be allowed," the panel said in a statement.

The draft addresses the most sensitive concern of Church critics: that Law reassigned to active ministry priests who were known to be pedophiles.

Since erupting in Boston in January, the scandal over sexual abuse of minors by Roman Catholic priests has spread across the United States. Priests in nearly a dozen US dioceses have been suspended or resigned under pressure and a bishop in Florida quit. Senior church leaders have been forced to apologize as the scope of the scandal has become apparent.

The controversy has moved overseas, with bishops in Ireland and Poland resigning, and has sent shock waves all the way to the Vatican.

The Boston panel's recommendation, approved in principle by Cardinal Law, appears to adopt a "zero tolerance" policy toward first-time sex offenders in the priesthood. Such an approach was debated but not accepted last month at an extraordinary meeting of US cardinals in Rome that was called by the Pope to discuss the scandal.

The commission's recommendations were made public less than a month before US bishops are due to gather in Dallas to set standards for how dioceses should handle pedophile priests.

***Reuters***

## Floods worsen in US Midwest

CHICAGO—Prison inmates and residents stacked sandbags along overflowing rivers and farmers cursed the skies on Friday as another batch of storms dumped still more rain on the already-flooded US Midwest.

The Mississippi River and its tributaries swept over their banks into some smaller towns lacking flood walls and the Coast Guard halted all traffic on a section of the Illinois River, which rose to a record high.

A break in a levee, or protective wall, flooded parts of Chandlerville, Illinois, and waters from the Mississippi lapped up against sandbag walls in Crystal City, Missouri, 32 km south of St. Louis.

***Reuters***

# Arafat turns vague on Palestinian polls

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Palestinian President Yasser Arafat cast doubt on Friday over the date of future Palestinian elections, saying a ballot could be held only after the end of Israeli occupation.

It was not immediately clear whether he was referring to a complete end to Israel's decades-old occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Arafat raised the possibility of new elections—last held in 1996—earlier this week and Palestinian lawmakers said they should take place by early 2003.

A Palestinian official, asked to clarify Arafat's remarks, said the condition for holding elections was a more limited Israeli Army withdrawal from all positions it had occupied since the start of a Palestinian uprising 19 months ago.

Arafat's condition met with a muted response from some Palestinians who have urged new elections and reforms against corruption in the Palestinian Authority, though the linkage to an Israeli pullout could mean a significant delay for a vote.

Keeping up the pressure, Israeli forces pushed into the battle-scarred Jenin refugee camp on Friday, returning to the scene of the fiercest fighting in Israel's recent West Bank offensive, and a second camp near Nablus.

Palestinian sources said two Palestinian boys were killed in the raids. ***Reuters***

# US under fire in Madrid summit

MADRID—US trade policies have come under fire at a summit of European and Latin American leaders who pledged to step up trade ties and their cooperation in fighting terrorism and drug-trafficking.

Friday's Madrid summit of almost 50 European Union, Latin American and Caribbean leaders marked a new step in the closer relationship that the EU has sought with South America, traditionally a sphere of US influence.

The summit, only the second of its kind after a ground-breaking meeting in Rio de Janeiro in 1999, resulted in pledges to work to promote trade between the two regions.

In a declaration, the leaders also promised to "combat terrorism in all its forms" and to strengthen cooperation to fight "the scourges of illicit drugs and related crimes, corruption and organized crime."

"The fight against international terrorism has to stay on the political agenda and should be intensified," German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder told reporters.

Strengthening EU-Latin American ties is a priority for the current EU president, Spain.

While the two regions stressed their preference for a "multilateral" approach to global problems, French President Jacques Chirac sharply criticized what he called US unilateralism.

Chirac said recent US decisions to slap tariffs on steel imports and to raise farm subsidies would hurt poor countries hardest, including those in Latin America.

Chirac, a staunch defender of the EU's own generous farm subsidies, said the EU leaders "strongly regretted this unilateralism, which runs contrary to a balanced and serene vision of the world." ***Reuters***

# Across the NATION

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## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowrs or thunderstorms especially in the afternoon or evening source: **pagasa**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Metro Manila** | Partly Cloudy | HI35° Lo24° |
| **Baguio** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 26° Lo 17° |
| **Tuguegarao** | Cloudy | Hi 28° Lo 18° |
| **Laoag** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 32° Lo 21° |
| **Clark Zone** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 33° Lo 22° |
| **Tagaytay** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 33° Lo 22° |
| **Legazpi** | Cloudy | Hi 28° Lo 23° |
| **Calapan** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 29° Lo 18° |
| **Iloilo/Bacolod** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 31° Lo 21° |
| **Roxas** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 30° Lo 26° |
| **Cebu** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 35° Lo 25° |
| **Tacloban** | Cloudy | Hi 30° Lo 23° |
| **Gen. Santos** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 33° Lo 24° |
| **Zamboanga** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 34° Lo 25° |
| **Cagayan de Oro** | Cloudy | Hi 32° Lo 24° |
| **Davao** | Partly Cloudy | Hi 32° Lo 24° |

Compiled by: Armin Adina, PDI Research/05/19/02

## ROUNDUP

### Journalist dies

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A Pampanga-based correspondent of the Daily Tribune was killed while his companion was hurt on Friday when their car hit a truck on MacArthur Highway in Barangay Maimpis here. Police said the Tribune correspondent, Chris Grutas, 28, was driving his blue Mitsubishi Lancer on his way home when it collided with an Isuzu Elf truck driven by Doque Ranara, 22. Police said the northbound truck occupied the opposite lane and hit Grutas' car. Grutas died before reaching the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Hospital here. His companion, Randy Manda, was taken to a hospital here.
*Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

### Assistance to farmers

BAGUIO CITY—To stabilize prices of vegetables produced by Benguet farmers, the Department of Trade and Industry has started seeking institutional buyers like restaurants and hotels to help market the farmers' produce. DTI officials said the vegetable farmers find it difficult to market their produce independently because middlemen and traders dictate the prices of vegetables and other crops in the market. The DTI said institutional buyers would assure farmers a regular and direct market for their produce.
*Ayvi Alcain and Jennifer Santos, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### PPA scrapping term

LEGAZPI CITY—The Albay Electric Cooperative (Aleco) said it would remove the purchased power adjustment (PPA) charge in its June billing to consumers if the National Power Corp. will not include it in its May 25 billing to the cooperative. Marilyn Casin of the Aleco finance office said their action would depend on Napocor's move. Of Aleco's effective rate of P5.8035 per kilowatt-hour, the PPA amounts to P2.5231.
*Tony S. Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Anti-child abuse

LEGAZPI CITY—Following the successful implementation of projects of the Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Unit (Capiu) in Albay, advocates against child abuse from Central Luzon and the Visayas will put up similar units in their areas. The Capiu is an organization of government and non-government agencies seeking the prevention of child abuse and the protection of children's dignity, worth and well-being. Its member-groups in Albay are in the cities of Legazpi, Ligao and Tabaco, and in the towns of Daraga, Libon, Tiwi.
*Roly C. Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Drug suspect jailed

LEGAZPI CITY—Police arrested a suspected drug pusher in a buy-bust operation here. Supt. Pedro Tango, provincial police director, identified the suspect as Reynante Babasa, 25, of Purok 3, Barangay Pigcale, who was caught selling to a poseur-buyer two sachets of shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride for P200. Babasa is facing charges of violation of Republic Act No. 6425 or the Dangerous Drugs Act. A bail of P60,000 has been recommended.
*Tony S. Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon ureau*

### Alumni meeting

THE QUEZON National High School Alumni Association is inviting presidents or their representatives of alumni classes of the Tayabas High School, Quezon Provincial High School and the Quezon National High School to a meeting on June 1, at 11 a.m. at the Queen Margarette Court in Barangay Domoit in Lucena City. Also invited to attend are those who intend to be incorporators of the Quezon National School Alumni Foundation Inc. While its main agenda is the finalization of groups' participation in the school centennial on Oct. 2-20, the meeting will also formalize the establishment of the foundation. For details, contact Romeo A. Dato, 710-2847; Julieta S. Tuazon, 710-3019; Ricardo S. Roqueza, 438-6799; and Casimiro Mora, 927-9737.

### Youth congress

BEFORE ending their term on July 15 for the synchronized barangay and SK Elections, the Sangguniang Kabataan will hold the last national congress of SK Batch 1996-2002 at the Sarabia Manor Hotel in Iloilo City on June 16-18. The congress aims to showcase the SK's accomplishments and programs, give recognition to outstanding SK leaders and partners, organize the National SK Alumni Association, present the different fields of endeavor for outgoing SK Officials, and rekindle the unity, camaraderie and friendship among SK leaders. For details, call Julienne Baronda, SK President of Iloilo City, (033) 335-1202.

## Sorsogon teachers lose bonuses, cash gifts to robbers

LEGAZPI CITY—Public school teachers in Sorsogon lost their mid-year bonuses and cash gifts to robbers who struck at the Department of Education office in Sorsogon City lost the money to robbers on Thursday night.

The benefits were scheduled to be distributed the next day.

Senior Supt. Arne de los Santos, Sorsogon police director, said the exact amount of money taken by the robbers had yet to be ascertained. DepEd personnel gave figures varying from P1.4 million to P5 million, the total amount earmarked for distribution to the teachers.

De los Santos said the robbers broke into the office by sawing off a window's steel bar. The break-in was reported by a security guard, a certain Carlos, on Friday morning, he said.

De los Santos said that according to the guard, the office's utility man and husband of the department's disbursing officer Lydia Bercasio, was the one who informed him about the crime.

The police officer said Bercasio and her husband had keys to the office.

"What bothers us is that nobody could enter through the window even if the steel bars were sawn off. Besides, the vault has no lock," he added.

De los Santos said Bercasio and the office's driver withdrew P5 million from the Development Bank of the Philippines on Thursday morning.

Provincial schools superintendent Dominador Osea said the amount represented the mid-year bonuses and cash gifts of public school teachers in the province.

Osea said they sorted the money into individual pay envelopes from morning until 7 p.m. of Thursday.

DepEd regional director Teresita Diaz-Naz immediately proceeded to Sorsogon City on Friday morning to attend to the problem. ***Tony S. Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

## Water woes hound Baguio

**By Gobleth Moulic**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

**BAGUIO CITY—Residents may have escaped the scorching heat but not the water shortage that has been plaguing this mountain city even before summer started.**

The country's summer capital is enjoying cool weather despite the soaring temperature in the lowlands. Afternoon showers drench vegetable farms, not because of cloud seeding to induce rains, but due to frequent thunderstorms.

But residents are bearing with the acute shortage of water due to little rainfall. The Baguio Water District has been rationing water since February.

Joseph Rios, local chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, said the hottest temperature recorded here this year was on April 28 when the mercury shot up to 28 degrees Celsius.

Residents of Metro Manila and other lowland provinces, however, experience unusually hot temperature ranging from 34 to 38 degrees.

But Rios is optimistic that Baguio would not get warmer than 30.4 degrees this summer. This temperature, recorded on March 15, 1988, was the hottest in the last 15 years.

"It's very unlikely that we can equal or even surpass the 30.4 degrees because we are nearing June which is the start of the rainy season. Based on the weather pattern, Baguio temperature is getting colder, especially now that we have afternoon showers," Rios said.

Old-timers in the city, sitting more than 1,500 meters above sea level, simply take off their jackets and sweaters and wear their hats as the mercury soared two to four degrees hotter than the normal temperature.

Pagasa records showed the minimum temperatures here in the last six days were 16.5 degrees (May 11), 16.8 (May 12), 17 (May 13), 16.8 (May 14), 15.6 (May 15) and 17 (May 16).

But a storm could have lifted the spirit of workers and vacationers alike, especially in Cabanatuan City when the blistering heat surged to 40.4 degrees on May 11.

Rios said a storm named "Dagul" was supposed to bring rains to the country based on weather readings at 2 a.m. Friday.

But 12 hours later, Dagul changed course and raced toward Japan at 19 kph.

Rains are what residents and farmers here are praying hard for. The city has been experiencing water shortage since February.

What the city needs now is at least three strong typhoons that are enough to fill the rain basin at Mt. Sto. Tomas in Tuba, Benguet, some 20 km from the downtown area, Rios said.

The rain basin, which supplies water to Baguio, has dried up due to the intense heat, he added.

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

**HOT ITEMS**

**As summer heats up, a vendor enjoys brisk business selling fans and other items along the busy San Pedro Street near the San Pedro Cathedral in Davao City.**

## 'Tilapia' festival in Ecija

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Some 500 fish farmers and cultivators here will be treated to a *tilapia* festival on May 22 when the national master plan for *tilapia* will be presented.

The fish growers are participants in the *Tilapia* Farmers' Consultative Congress that will be held at the multipurpose gym of the Central Luzon State University. Five agencies involved in *tilapia* research and development are the main sponsors.

Basilio Rodriguez, executive director of the GIFT (Genetically Improved Farm Tilapia) Foundation International Inc., one of the sponsors, said an exhibit on the country's *tilapia* industry and a *tilapia* cookfest will be held on the same day.

A marker of the Tilapia Science Center at the CLSU compound will also be unveiled during the festivities.

Rodriguez said a private company would exhibit its "Supreme *Tilapia*" strain, but details of the *tilapia* variety are not yet available.
*Anselmo Roque*

## Farmers' Day: Grandma receives 'diploma'

**By Ma. Diosa Labiste**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

JORDAN, Guimaras—A 77-year-old grandmother had a taste of graduation on May 17 when she marched to receive a brown envelope containing her "diploma" for completing a program on pest management.

Rosita Locsin Alonde, who only finished Grade 5, did not mind that the certificate had yet to arrive from Manila with the signature of Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor.

But her spirit was not dampened. She also received a gift for being one of the most active participants from her group in Nueva Valencia town.

Alonde, who has 24 grandchildren and great grandchildren, is the oldest—and friskiest—of the 136 farmers who recently graduated from a field school that taught them how to grow pesticide-free crops.

The graduation was held on Farmers' Day, one of the events in the Manggahan Festival from May 16 to 22. The festival celebrates the day when Guimaras was declared a province on May 22, 1992.

The 136 farmers comprised the sixth batch of trainees for the national Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program supported by the Department of Agriculture and the province. They underwent training once a week for almost four months.

The schools were without walls as classes were held in the fields or under mango tree.

Alonde said she intended to apply what she learned by growing pesticide-free eggplant, *ampalaya* (bitter gourd) and string beans in her one-hectare farm.

Another student, farmer Luis Peñas, was excited to apply what he learned about fruit processing.

He said fruit processing was better than selling fresh mangoes because purees, juices, pickles and desiccated mango strips command higher prices in Iloilo City than in other areas.

In Guimaras, the IPM focuses on rice, vegetables and mangoes, the banner produce.

Provincial agriculturist Ronnie Morante said the IPM training would boost Guimaras' reputation as the source of organically grown food crops.

Guimaras mango recently passed the stringent quarantine standards of the United States market after it was certified to be pest-free after 10 years of placing the province in a reverse quarantine to prevent the entry of mangoes from other places.

Aside from growing food crops, the farmers also learned how to distinguish pests and friendly bugs in the fields.

The practice would wean them away from the use of pesticides and other farm chemicals.

During Farmers' Day, a forum was also organized to discuss issues, problems, trends and technology updates on Guimaras' cash produce, such as mangoes, cashew and calamansi.

In the afternoon, farmers had fun competing in various games like piglet and native chicken catching, mango eating contest, a relay competition where farmers carry sacks of rice, and guessing the number of mangoes inside a *kaing* (huge bamboo basket).

The farmers' favorite pastime called hackfight, locally known as "*lusok*" (meaning "to gore" in Hiligaynon), was included in the activities of the Manggahan Festival. In the hackfight, the gamecocks do not wear gaffs.

Board member David Gano, chair of the provincial legislative committee on agriculture, said the festival was intended to give recognition to the farmers and to train them to improve their crops.

## Isabela honors Maestro San Pedro for creating hymn

ILAGAN, Isabela—Officials and residents honored the late National Artist Lucio San Pedro during the 146th founding anniversary of the province last week.

San Pedro was honored posthumously for creating the music for the "Isabela Hymn," official song of the province.

Julius Ferdinand Ordoñez, curator of the provincial museum and coordinator of the anniversary celebration, said San Pedro's heirs, represented by his grandson Gabby San Pedro, received the posthumous award for "Maestro Lucio."

The provincial board also presented a resolution commending San Pedro for creating the music for the province's hymn. The lyrics were written by Avelina Cabasal.

San Pedro, 89, composed the immortal lullaby "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" and the symphonic poem "Lahing Kayumanggi." He died of cardiac arrest on March 31.

As the award was conferred on San Pedro's heirs, the Isabela Hymn was played.

The song goes:

"Isabela, a home endeared by
men upright and free
A land where peace and love
abide, where men or truth
reside
Endowed with rich and glorious past, a heritage known
and vast
From Palanan to Jones they
stood for freedom and for
truth.
"Her shining rivers teem with
fish and mountains lush with
trees
Her fertile fields abound with
yields are blessing for our meat
Bless Isabela gracious Lord and
keep her in your fold
In unison we all proclaim her
providential fame."

San Pedro was proclaimed National Artist for music in 1991. He was a scholar of the University of the Philippines' College of Music until his graduation in 1938. He earned a teacher's diploma in composition and conducting.

San Pedro taught music composition at the UP College of Music and served as chair of its composition and conducting department from 1970 to 1973.

He also taught music in several colleges and universities in Metro Manila. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

INQUIRER Mindanao
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◆ Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

# A silent war against homelessness

**By Aquiles Z. Zonio**
*General Santos City*

"There's a suablime feeling in all giving."
(Chinese sage)

**"WE thought this miserable condition would persist," a teary-eyed Joshua Daquigan said as he pointed at his old shanty.**

Joshua, 44, is the national coordinator of the Evangelical Christian Outreach Foundation in General Santos City. He and his wife Luz Minda, 46, have been working hard to save a portion of their meager income to improve their decrepit, sagging hut, made mostly of bamboo materials.

During the early years of their marriage, the couple tried to go into business. They were wholesale dealers of soft drinks in Purok Pagkakaisa, Barangay Labangal.

Their earnings then were more than enough to meet the needs of their family. But as their family grew, they noticed that they have been barely surviving. Sending their four children to school and improving their dwelling have become difficult.

"When we were only three in the family, I said to myself I'll just save later for my house. I failed to foresee that times would turn from bad to worse. Saving part of our income was becoming quite cumbersome, if not impossible," Joshua said.

When he decided to work full-time as a pastor, Joshua said he was constantly bothered by the problem of where to get money to repair his house. "But I gave my full trust in God and everything fell into place."

### Save and build

Joshua's family became the first "home partner" to benefit from the partnership between the General Santos City Habitat for Humanity Inc. (GSCHHI) and the Center for Community Transformation (CCT).

The GSCHHI has been involved in community development projects, focusing on building simple and decent houses for the city's urban poor. Since it was formed over 10 years ago, it has provided housing units to poor families in Barangays Mabuhay and San Isidro.

On the other hand, the CCT is a micro-credit institution providing short-term loan assistance to micro-enterprises, and scholarship grants, health benefits and death assistance to the poor. It has more than 4,000 members, mostly women, throughout the city.

"Save-and-build is an innovation of the program of the Habitat International," Leonilo "Tots" Escalada, Habitat International partner, said. It was first introduced in the city through the GSCHHI.

Under the project, low-income families will be assisted in repairing their existing houses by means of "forced savings."

"This brings into the consciousness of our community partners the utmost value of saving for the construction or renovation of their houses. We extend help but at the same time we nurture in them the value of self-reliance, not total dependence," Fernando Santiago, chair of the GSCHHI, said.

The project covers re-roofing, construction of toilet and bathroom, wall and floor concrete works, and even expansion of bedrooms.

Before a "home-partner" can benefit from the project, the GSCHHI ensures that the land where the house stands is titled.

A maximum of P25,000 renovation loan is given to the beneficiary. Of the amount, 10 percent is deducted as administrative expense and another 10 percent for labor or "sweat equity." The rest is spent for materials.

The loan is payable for a period of five years without interest.

Sweat equity is popularly known as the "*bayanihan*," in which home-partners are encouraged to help in the renovation without expecting anything in return.

"This is to inculcate in the minds of the beneficiaries that the Habitat project is not a dole-out. Home-partners must learn to toil to avail themselves of the program," Santiago said.

Before the renovation is started, a group is required to raise P6,250 or 25 percent of its cost. The GSCHHI will provide the remaining 75 percent. The group will determine who among its members will be given priority.

Members must have their own passbooks where they deposit their savings. Normally, a member is required to save P100 a week. After completing payment, the member can continue saving and may apply for another renovation project.

The amounts paid by the home-partners go to the "Fund for Humanity," which is used in renovating the houses of other qualified home-partners.

### Catalysts

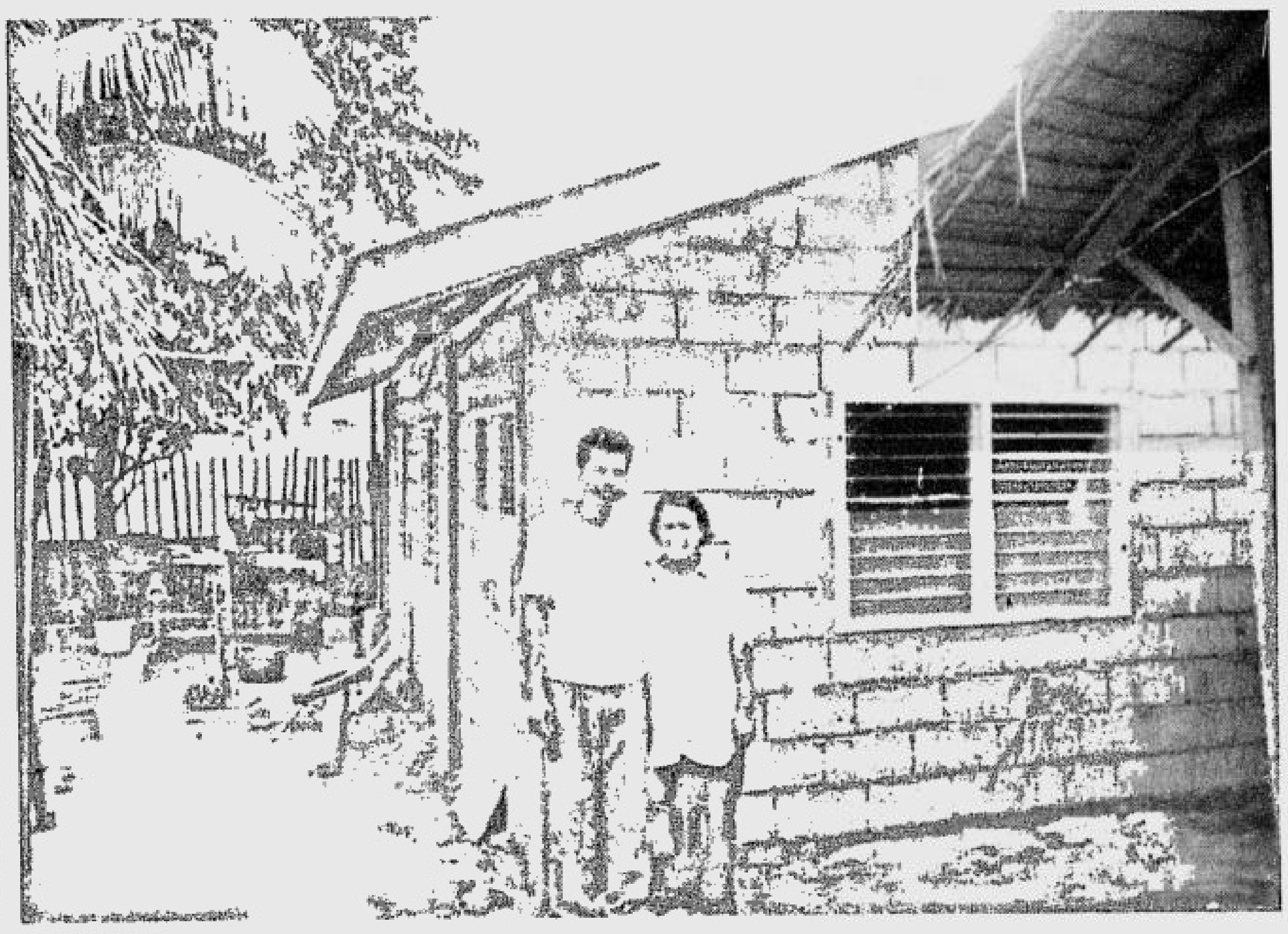
Joining the "Save and Build" program is not easy. Those who are interested must form themselves into a group.

To ensure the efficiency of its program, the GSCHHI tapped the CCT to take the lead in community organizing. The two agencies recently signed a memorandum of agreement to formalize the partnership.

The GSCHHI has a track record in building homes for the homeless, but it lacks the skills in community organizing.

The CCT has been operating in the city for about three years.

In Barangay Labangal, one of the most populous villages, the CCT was able to organize 20 "fellowship" groups, composed mostly of women. It was from among these groups that the beneficiaries of the GSCHHI housing program were selected.



**THE DADUIGAN couple and their improved dwelling, courtesy of the Habitat for Humanity program in General Santos City.**
AQUILES Z. ZONIO

The groups served not only as a network of Christ-centered, self-reliant communities but also as catalysts for social transformation. Each group holds a one-hour fellowship every Monday to foster relationships among its members that transcend beyond individual religious, political and cultural beliefs.

Joshua narrated that in one instance, Naimah Alfonso, a Muslim member of a fellowship group, allowed her P1,750 in savings to be used for the renovation of a house owned by a certain Visminda Ababon.

Ababon, Joshua said, had been on the top priority list thrice but due to financial constraints, she had failed to come up with the required savings.

The cohesiveness and unity of the fellowship was also tested when a son of one of the members, Chona Sanchez, was hospitalized due to a recurring illness. Time came when the Chona and her husband ran out of money and could no longer bring their son to a hospital.

"The 28 members of our group passed the hat to raise the amount needed for the hospitalization," Joshua said. For several weeks, the members managed to chip in some amount to prolong the life of a dying kid, he said.

The GSCHHI and the CCT was also responsible in changing the mindset of the poor people of Labangal.

In areas where fellowship groups have been organized, one can hardly see a husband gambling to while away the time or a housewife gossiping with neighbors.

Romil Napila, CCT area director for Mindanao, said the CCT's newfound partnership with the GenSan Habitat was like finding the missing piece of a puzzle.

"We help strengthen the spiritual and economic aspects of poor people's lives, while the Habitat builds and renovates houses for them," Napila said.

### No gov't support

Santiago said the Habitat has provided 670 housing units worth more than P20 million to poor families in Barangays Mabuhay and San Isidro since it was formed more than 10 years ago.

The beneficiaries have already formed two Habitat for Humanity community associations. Occupying a total of 36 hectares of land, the groups are considered models among the projects of Habitat International in the world.

Funds for building new houses kept coming, Santiago said, but the city's Habitat opted for off-site development due to the problem of land acquisition.

"We have already made representations with the city government. We asked Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. for a site where we can build new housing units. He promised to provide us a portion of a government-owned property but until now, nothing has happened," Santiago said.

In other areas, he said, the local governments were the ones providing the site for the project.

Based on latest data from the City Housing and Land Management Office, some 35,000 homeless residents are waiting to be relocated. They are "pink card holders" who are qualified beneficiaries under the Urban Development and Housing Act.

While the city has been doing nothing to make its vast tracts of idle land productive, the Habitat is making headway in its silent war against homelessness.

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# ‘All the way with GMA’

From page A1

The election of Kampi’s new officers was held yesterday at the house of former Tarlac Rep. Jose “Peping” Cojuangco in Makati City, with around 30 party leaders from all over the country in attendance. The assembly came up with “All the way for GMA!” as its battle cry.

Dante Ang, Ms Macapagal’s personal publicist, was elected Kampi president; former Tarlac Gov. Margarita “Tingting” Cojuangco, chair; former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, treasurer; and Montenegro, finance committee chair.

“It was Dante Ang and Ed Espiritu who convinced Mr. Montenegro to come on board,” said Interior Undersecretary Wencelito Andanar. “(He and) Ed will form a very formidable fund-raising team to ensure that the party’s needs are met when the election comes in 2004.”

Montenegro made his fortune from the activated carbon component of the coconut industry.

He chairs the H.M. Montenegro Group, which includes, among others, the Pacific Activated Carbon Corp., Titan Mega Tiles and Industries and Herman Consolidated. He also heads HMM Properties, which is engaged in real estate development.

Kampi secretary general Emigdio Tanjuatco said Espiritu “only has to tie up some loose ends in the United States.”

“Come July, he will be in the country to start raising funds for the presidential campaign of the President in 2004,” said Tanjuatco, a former Rizal congressman.

### Peping

At the Kampi meeting, Ang thanked former party president Peping Cojuangco “for making way.”

Ang’s statement belied earlier reports that there were some personal issues to be settled between the President and the influential ex-congressman from Tarlac, who was recently named among the advocates of the so-called Freedom Force.

Ang said the President had personally told him that there was nothing to settle with Cojuangco.

“We have a huge debt of gratitude to Peping,” he quoted her as saying.

Ang said Ms Macapagal recognized the contributions made by Cojuangco and Kampi in her first run for public office in 1997 and her successful campaign for the vice presidency in 1998.

“When I told her of the plan to revitalize (Kampi), she said we should go ahead. We have her full support,” Ang said.

Kampi leaders said they would soon recruit members but would not invite members of parties already supportive of the administration.

“Our main objective is to have the President elected in 2004,” Tanjuatco said. “So if we will recruit people who are already supporting the President, that will not translate to additional support.”

Andanar said they would have another meeting shortly to discuss strategies and to define Kampi’s role in the ruling coalition.

“Let me make it clear that we will not be a receptacle of people who have been rejected by Lakas,” he added.

According to earlier reports, Kampi was revitalized to provide a party for those who are supportive of the President but do not want to join Lakas or the People Power Coalition.

### Standard bearer

‘The President recently announced that she would take the post of Lakas chair from De Venecia.

Zubiri said that with that announcement, she would “definitely” be the party’s standard bearer in 2004.

Ms Macapagal herself has hinted that she would run in 2004 because she was eligible to do so, anyway.

As to who would be her running mate, Zubiri said: “It’s too early to speculate but we from Mindanao would like her to choose someone from Mindanao.”

If Ms Macapagal does run for the presidency in 2004, it will be the second time she will choose a vice president.

After Joseph Estrada’s ouster and her assumption of the presidency, she had a tough time choosing between Guingona, Drilon and now Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

She chose Guingona for his leading role in then Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis “Chavit” Singson’s decision to go public with “Juetengate.” He was the first senator who exposed the Estrada links to the illegal numbers game on the Senate floor.

Roco, leader of Aksyon Demokratiko, was initially in the running for vice president in 2001, but he accepted his appointment as education secretary.

This early, some incumbent congressmen are being touted as senatorial candidates of Lakas.

They include Zubiri, Prospero Pichay Jr. (Surigao del Sur), Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez (Iloilo City), Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II (Mandaluyong City) and Oscar Moreno (Misamis Oriental).

Gonzalez and Gonzales are on their third and last term in the House. The others are second-termers.

Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid, a close ally of the President, is also rumored to be among the senatorial candidates.

### Datumanong

An over-enthusiastic Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong is reportedly to blame for the President’s perceived early campaigning.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said it was Datumanong’s idea to put up billboards bearing Ms Macapagal’s picture at almost every public infrastructure project in Metro Manila.

Opposition Sen. Blas Ople had accused the President of taking advantage of the public works billboards to push her election bid.

Ople said such a perception was bolstered by the President’s decision to assume the chairmanship of Lakas.

But Afable told Palace reporters yesterday that it was not the President who decided to put up the billboards.

“It was Secretary Datumanong,” Afable said. “He was really enthusiastic about putting the President’s face on the billboards.”

Afable claimed that the billboards “came as a surprise.”

“(When Datumanong) presented it to the Presidential Management Staff and the Cabinet, it was already a *fait accompli*,” he said, adding that the billboards were allowed to be put up so as not to let these go to waste.

Ople claimed that some congressmen and local government officials resented that a billboard would proclaim a public works project to be a “priority project” of the President when they also had a hand in its approval.

Observers said Malacañang overdid its “billboard campaign” when a public toilet being constructed in Quezon City was proclaimed to be a “priority project” of Ms Macapagal.

But for all that, it has been decided that the President’s picture would stay on the billboards.

“They were designed that way,” Afable said. “And whether you remove (the picture) or not, the opposition will always claim that this is early campaigning.” ***With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan***

# GMA urged to bring case to Swiss president

From page A1

the supposed cover-up “first hand,” including the filmed admission of senior Union Bank of Switzerland official Gertrude Erismann-Peyer and the statement of Madame Z on the fund transfers from Credit Suisse.

Malacañang had known of the identity of Madame Z since March. On the other hand, the Presidential Commission on Good Government, was informed of her existence and identity as early as September last year.

“Consideration should be given to the Philippine President making a direct appeal to the President of Switzerland,” said Chaikin, who is also the lawyer of Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi.

“Without such forthright action, I fear that Madame Z’s evidence will be misused or mishandled,” Chaikin added.

Leuenberger served as a lawyer of the Presidential Commission on Good Government before he was elected member of the Zurich government in 1991. In 1995, he was elected member of the Swiss Federal Government. He became president of Switzerland on Jan. 1, 2001.

### Gives up on PCGG

“The direct appeal to the Swiss President should be backed by a request by the Philippine Solicitor General to Switzerland requesting . . . assistance to arrange for the interrogation of witnesses,” Chaikin said.

He noted that the Swiss authorities in charge of dealing with the Marcos assets had failed to interrogate “potential witnesses in Switzerland who could provide material evidence concerning the Marcos money laundering.”

“The Philippine government has the right to request the Swiss authorities to interrogate such witnesses,” he said.

Chaikin has given up on the PCGG, even if it is now chaired by the feisty Haydee Yorac.

The PCGG has refused to subpoena any of the Marcoses, even after admissions made in public on their hidden assets (as what Imelda Marcos did regarding $800 million) or admissions on existing accounts made through signed documents (as what Irene Marcos Araneta regarding UBS accounts).

Imelda Marcos’ admission on her $800-million deposits in various international banks was made in March 1998. Araneta’s signed documents on her UBS accounts, including the controversial client account number 885931, were executed at the Deutsche Bank offices in Dusseldorf on Feb. 14, 2001.

On both occasions, the PCGG made no move to question either Imelda Marcos or her daughter.

Even Palmy Foundation, which is known to hold Imelda Marcos’ deposits, used Limag AG in Liechtenstein for the transfer of funds, based on Swiss documents provided to the PCGG as early as 1991.

“Palmy Foundation was established on Sept. 10, 1981, with Limag Management as authorized signatory,” said the PCGG’s consolidated report on Swiss documents dated May 30, 1991.

No interrogation has been done up to now. To compound matters, certain vital documents have been lost in the PCGG’s premises over the years.

### Swiss failure

For their part, Swiss authorities, particularly the Zurich District Attorney and investigating magistrates handling Philippine government requests, have not conducted any aggressive investigation.

An INQUIRER source cited evidence showing that the Zurich District Attorney’s Office had not only failed to do this but also tried to pressure those involved in the investigation on hidden Marcos accounts not to release vital information to the Philippine government.

The PCGG’s own analysis of Swiss documents provided to the Philippine government showed how Swiss authorities had not been all that forthright and helpful.

Their assistance has been very selective, noted former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, who himself dealt with former Zurich District Attorney Cosandey in 1991.

Chavez said Cosandey would check what documents the Philippine government had, and then select documents from his file that he deemed safe to submit—meaning, the documents would not reveal more than they should.

There were even instances where Swiss authorities would deny the Philippine government access to documents on already known vital accounts, he said.

“After comparing with the documents received from Swiss authorities, we noted that they allowed us access to 46 Swiss accounts not known to us, but denied us records on 51 accounts already identified by the (PCGG). These are Swiss accounts already identified by Malacañang documents,” said the PCGG’s “consolidated report on Swiss documents” dated May 30, 1991.

More recently, Cosandey’s successor Dieter Jann would not confirm accounts already identified by the PCGG as belonging to the Marcoses.

In one of his answers to the PCGG’s request on the Lalag Corp. accounts of the Marcoses, Jann said: “According to my documents, it is evident that Lalag Corporation, SA, had several accounts at this bank. Other accounts from persons in the milieu of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos could not be determined.”

Based on the PCGG’s records, Lalag Corp. is connected to Palmy Foundation as there have been fund transfers between the two entities.

The PCGG rapped Jann for saying that the accounts did not seem to belong to the Marcoses simply because their names were not on paper.

A letter on the mutual assistance request written by then PCGG chair Magdangal Elma said: “In item 2 above, it has already been established that Lalag Corp., now known as Galalsa AG, was the designated trustee of the newly created Marcos foundations. It therefore follows that the ‘several accounts’ existing and registered in the name of Lalag Corp. or Galalsa AG in Cogeba referred to and confirmed by Dieter Jann in his May 20, 1999, letter belong to the Marcoses.

“Obviously, Dieter Jann may not find the name of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos since the accounts are in the names of foundations and/or trustees.”

### Freeze

Documents and other testimony also further showed that the mechanism for the Marcos fund transfers was already put in place even before the March 24, 1986, freeze, ensuring a systematic approach to the whole thing.

This is a further confirmation of Madame Z’s information.

Even before the freeze was put in place, Marcos fund trustees had set up a system for these transfers to prevent the “sequestration of Marcos accounts” by the Philippine and Swiss governments, according to documents obtained by the INQUIRER.

Those involved include Gustaves Aldophe Rychner, the most senior member of the Credit Suisse Fides Trust with address at Bleicherweg 33, 8002 Zurich.

Rychner was involved in the Marcos money transfers from Switzerland to Liechtenstein, according to an affidavit of Michael de Guzman executed in Switzerland on July 28, 1986.

De Guzman said that a day after the freeze on the Marcos assets, Rychner told him that “steps had already been taken to ensure that neither the Philippine government nor the Swiss authorities would be successful in the sequestration of the Marcos deposits and investments.”

De Guzman was involved in the failed “Operation Big Bird” that had sought the transfer of Marcos funds to an Austrian Bank.

He had personal meetings with the Credit Suisse officials involved in the fund transfers on March 24-26, 1986.

Recalling the meeting at around 11 a.m. of March 25, De Guzman said in his Swiss affidavit: “Rychner continued to describe that the foundations and the account names have already been changed and that (my) transfer order (from Marcos) was no longer necessary.”

He quoted Rychner as saying that Credit Suisse and Fides had worked something out and that “what had been done thus far on all the foundations and accounts is a safety mechanism from any sequestration efforts by both the Philippine and Swiss authorities.”

Rychner’s alleged partners in the transfers were Josef Dorig, an employee of Fides Trust in Zurich in 1986, and a Mr. Grob and a Mr. Schumacher.

De Guzman added: “Rychner then asked Grob to elaborate on the new structures of the foundation companies and instructed Grob, Dorig and Schumacher to explain (to me) the corresponding movements of accounts and with other banks made by Credit Suisse and Fides.

At the time, even Lalag Inc. was supposedly involved in the money transfers from Switzerland to Liechtenstein.

# The true love story of a man of the cloth

From page A1

in the open. Her disclosure, she also hoped, should prompt the Church hierarchy to handle the controversy with resolve. Not with undue fraternal secrecy.

Stel’s love story with a priest began in August 1998 when she met Fr. Reynald Enduma, then a 32-year-old SVD missionary from Oriental Mindoro.

Tall and dark, who delivered heartwarming homilies with a deep, charismatic voice, Fr. Rey was very popular among the parishioners of St. Jude Church on J.P. Laurel Street in Manila, Stel recalled.

A devotee of St. Jude since high school, Stel regularly went to the church to pray the novena to the “Saint of the Impossible.”

After the Mass that August afternoon, Stel and other parishioners approached the priest for a chat about his upcoming missionary work in Indonesia.

All throughout the conversation Stel felt that Fr. Rey had his eyes fixed on her. He took her phone number at the gym in Muntinlupa where she was working out.

“There was an immediate attraction then for the lady possessed close resemblance with my former girlfriend, the girl I left behind and sacrificed in favor of my vocation,” the priest told Fr. Ed Fugoso, superior delegatus of the Christ the King Seminary, in a letter months later.

### The kiss

“It was not exactly love at first sight, but it started everything,” said Stel who sent a bundle of *suman* (a variation of rice cake) for Fr. Rey just before she left the church that afternoon.

The day after, Stel got a call at the gym. It was from “Rey,” she was told. She returned the call. What followed was a series of “innocent” meetings.

One time after Stel and her friends had gone to confession, they went to see Fr. Rey and asked for his address in Indonesia. “I’ll only give it to (Stel),” he jokingly told the group.

Later, the priest offered to drive her to her uncle’s house in Sampaloc. The drive was brief but Fr. Rey’s romantic insinuations came quick and fast, said Stel.

“That time, I didn’t see any malice with what he was doing,” she said. “I even kissed him on the cheek after the drive. I thought it was only normal since other female parishioners kissed him, too.”

But Stel noted her kiss seemed to have shocked the priest. He promised that they would see each other again.

### The date

The “date” came right after a basketball game sponsored by the SVD at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City. A snack in a Sampaloc fast-food restaurant. A movie in Ortigas. Steamy love-making in a Pasig motel. Thus, started Stel’s illicit affair with a priest.

Her mother learned about what had happened and told Fr. Rey not to see her daughter again.

Stel said she was devastated but tried to forget her lover.

“I was determined not (to see) her anymore . . . I even promised her mother that I would not be bothering her and her family since then,” he wrote Father Fugoso in a letter dated Feb. 9, 1999.

“I managed to keep that promise but on Oct. 25, in response to my invitation, she came to my despedida party in Mindoro,” Fr. Rey told Fugoso in the same letter.

“I regretted it for we failed to control our longing for each other,” the love-struck priest wrote his superior.

A dejected Stel left for Manila the day after the send-off party, knowing that the liaison would go nowhere. He’s a priest and he would be leaving for Indonesia soon. She locked herself in her room and was on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

Her father learned about her affair with Fr. Rey two days later when the priest went to her house. Fr. Rey said he had to visit her after her mother told him about Stel’s suicide attempt.

His back against the wall, Fr. Rey made all sorts of promises if only to appease Stel’s furious father. He promised Stel’s father to leave the priesthood and marry her.

The father was apparently convinced and allowed Fr. Rey to stay in their house for the next two days, according to Stel.

“What a fool I was, acting like Judas Escariot, denying God of my love for Him,” Fr. Rey later wrote Fugoso. “I felt so sad about the betrayal, but what should I do then?”

Stel said that her lover-priest renewed his promise just before he left for Indonesia. “He told me not to worry. He said he won’t fail me.” Since then, she hardly heard from Fr. Rey.

On Nov. 29, Stel found out that she was pregnant. She immediately mailed the result of her pregnancy test to Fr. Rey in Indonesia. Still, there was no word from the priest.

After a series of failed attempts to get in touch with Fr. Rey, Stel finally reached him by telephone, but his response plunged her deeper into depression.

The priest was insisting that he would not accept responsibility for the child. At that point, Stel thought that the best recourse was to bring up her problem with Fr. Rey’s superiors.

### Exile for ‘first offense’

“Father, please do not tolerate these priests who pretend to be righteous, to destroy the credibility of the Church,” she wrote in her letter to Fr. Laurentius Da Costa, provincial superior of the SVD in Indonesia.

“I shall not tolerate his dishonoring of my child and this should not happen to other children. Somebody has to take action against the growing number of babies born (to) mothers who are victims of this cruel conduct of priests,” she wrote Fr. Rey’s superior.

Stel did not ask for financial support from Fr. Rey or asked that he marry her.

In Manila, Father Fugoso promised that the priest would be “exiled for reorientation since it was just his first offense,” according to her.

She was also told by Fugoso just to “leave everything to God.”

In a letter dated Feb. 9, 1999, Fr. Fugoso advised Fr. Rey not to follow the lead of other priests who had ignored their responsibilities to the women they had impregnated.

“You can never right a wrong with another mistake,” he wrote in Filipino.

“Don’t be afraid, Rey. It’s not only through priesthood that a person can enter heaven. Perhaps it was not your calling from the beginning. I don’t know. Only you can find that out by examining the events in your life.”

Stel later realized she could not expect the Church hierarchy to crack the whip on erring priests.

In late December 1998, she got a much-awaited letter from Fr. Rey:

“Tuesday, Dec. 8. I received your letter bearing the news that you’re pregnant . . . Everything was in a mess. All my plans and activities for the day were shattered into pieces.

“You are luckier to have your family (by) your side . . . I’m all alone here . . . I appeal to you, give me enough time . . . I’m ready to bear the burden, even at the cost of my life . . . I will!”

It was one of the few messages she would get from Fr. Rey even after she gave birth to their child on July 10, 1999.

In November 1999, Stel learned that the father of her child was back to Manila. She was told that he was at the SVD seminary in Cebu taking up a masteral degree in Philosophy at the University of San Carlos. But he had not bothered to contact her and find out about their son, she said.

“Good thing the child was a boy. At least there will be someone to replace me when I leave. I’m suffering,” he told Stel when she phoned him in Cebu.

A year later, Stel arranged a date with Fr. Rey to see their child, then one-year-old. At the back of her mind, she was hoping that the experience would change the priest’s mind and make him acknowledge his child once and for all.

Their son readily gave his father a hug during their meeting at a mall.

But Fr. Rey probably needs “more time” to think things over as he had returned to Indonesia. Still there are no clear signs that he would deal with the problem, said Stel. Or is his inaction his way of dealing with it?

One time, her son asked her why people were saying that actor Rico Yan was already in heaven.

“It’s because he has already fulfilled his mission,” she told him. “Do you know what your mission is?”

“Yes, Mama. I’ll become a priest.”

# Iloilo science teacher wins int'l award for excellence

From page A1

ing. She was given a $5,000 cash prize, a high-end computer and a $20,000 grant.

Three Filipino students—Jeric Macalintal, 16, Allan Estrella, 17, and Richard Manapat, 16—won first prize for their science project in the team competition in the physics category. They were given $3,000.

They had proposed to use gamma-irradiated liquid crystals to create a device that could measure radiation dosage. The teammates had conceptualized the project when they were at the Manila Science High School.

Prem Villas Fortran Rara, 17, of the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology won second prize and $1,500 in the individual microbiology category.

He proposed the use of an extract from the parotid gland of the common toad as an antibiotic.

The four Filipino students competed against 1,238 finalists from 39 countries. The finalists emerged from a field of more than 1 million students who vied in more than 500 affiliated science fairs worldwide.

Isef 2002 was the culmination of this global search for novel science methods and processes.

### Teaching children

Biyo, a 44-year-old mother of two, hails from Janiuay, Iloilo.

During her seven-minute presentation before the panel of judges, she was asked why she was teaching in high school although she had a doctorate in biology.

"Who will teach those kids?" Biyo told them.

The judges were shocked when they learned that she was just getting a monthly salary of $300.

"(But) I did not get my Ph.D. just to check papers. I got it to teach children," Biyo said.

"I think the judges liked (my method of teaching science) because of its simplicity. They knew that resources in the Philippines are hard to come by and the outcome of my methods was beyond expectation," said Biyo.

"Also, I don't just teach students. I also involve the teachers who in turn become mentors for others."

### Scientific adventures

Biyo often takes her classes on scientific adventures, mostly field trips to research institutes in the Visayas where students can interact with practicing scientists.

"This required me to focus on certain strategies and methods for effective teaching like establishing linkages, building up literature, conducting research forums and doing workshops for teachers," she said.

Biyo plans to use her $20,000 grant to conduct science education training in Guimaras, Iloilo and Negros Occidental. She wants to conduct the workshops herself and educate fellow teachers about her award-winning science teaching method.

Biyo also received a financial aid from the Philippine scientific community, allowing her to fly to Los Angeles, Boston and Chicago to observe teaching methods in America.

Biyo has already won two awards in the Philippines: Metrobank Foundation's 1987 Most Outstanding Teacher and the TOYM Award for secondary education in 1998.

Nominees to the Intel Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award had submitted a description of their teaching methods and a proposal how a larger community of teachers could apply these methods.

The entries were judged both on the current success of the method and the future potential for teachers and students in the nominee's community.

### Future scientists

"Our youth will be the leading scientists and researchers of tomorrow, and their creativity and passion will fuel the next breakthrough discoveries," Biyo said.

But how does one successfully teach science and technology to students in an era where new discoveries happen fast?

"Teachers have to be committed to their profession, they should not stop learning and they should develop their skills through seminars so they can inject new ideas," Biyo advises.

And how can Filipino students excel in science fairs in the future?

"When we go to science fairs, our students should be there not to impress but to show what scientific process they can develop," she said. "High-tech gadgets do not always succeed, and the judges know the capability of students. This has been our dilemma ever since. You cannot fool the judges. Students should think of the topic and look at the process while teachers should just give guidance."

# Officials . . .

From page A1

product) grew by 3.4-4.0 percent in the first quarter because of the strong performance of the agriculture and retail sectors," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told reporters Friday night.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas was even more optimistic, predicting a first-quarter GDP growth of 3.8-4.2 percent.

The National Economic Development Authority is expected to release by the end of this month its report on the GDP, the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy, excluding overseas remittances and other net factor income from abroad.

This early, however, doubts have been raised about the country's economic prospects after the government recorded a budget deficit of P61.2 billion in the first quarter.

The government, for one, overshot its deficit target by 15.64 percent due to poor tax collection and lower interest rates.

Officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs also reportedly wanted to lower their collection targets this year.

They believed that the GDP only grew by 2 percent in the first quarter, not fast enough to allow them to meet their collection targets.

But Camacho insisted that robust agriculture performance and increased consumer spending in the first four months of the year would lead to growth "stronger than 2 percent."

He added higher car sales and bigger loans were also driving the domestic economy.

"There's no reason to expect the GDP growth rate to be less than the target. There's no concern about GDP growth rates. We are on track with the target for the whole year (of 4 - 4.5 percent)," Camacho told reporters.

The economy grew by 3.4 percent last year.

He also expressed confidence the government would be able to meet its budget deficit target of P130 billion for the year.

"We need to be within the expenditure program. Any revenue shortfall will be covered by interest savings," Camacho said.

He said a higher economic growth, low interest rates, a stable exchange rate, and healthy fiscal management should provide investors with a good business climate.

### Canlas

In an interview with the INQUIRER on Saturday, Canlas said agriculture, which accounts for about 20 percent of the country's GDP, chalked up a higher-than-expected growth of 3.8 percent in the first quarter.

Bountiful harvests of rice, mango and fishery products offset the weak output of some major crops such as coconut and coffee.

Canlas said the services sector also continued its strong performance, led by the expansion in telecommunications, retailing and private business services. He cited the boom in call centers, software and other backroom services in the country.

The National Economic and Development Authority forecast this sector, which accounts for about 45 percent of the GDP, to grow by as much as 5 percent in the first quarter.

Even the industrial sector, which has been the laggard in the domestic economy, showed some improvement in the first quarter.

"There was a recovery in the car manufacturing sector in February. There was a weaker decline in exports, and also, there was some growth in construction because of government spending in infrastructure," Canlas said.

He also pointed out that export receipts dropped by a meager 0.7 percent in March, a turnaround from the double-digit contraction brought about by the US-led global economic slowdown last year. The March export figure was the best performance by the sector in the last 14 months.

The country's export earnings for the first quarter stood at $8.11 billion, only 5.3 percent lower from the same period last year.

Imports and manufacturing output likewise started to rebound in February, boosting growth prospects for the rest of the year. *With reports by AFP and Reuters*

Mothers' Festival

MANIFESTO of Mothers present at the Mothers' Festival on Mothers' Day - May 12, 2002.

We, participants in this Mothers' Festival, aware that the family and motherhood are under constant and unrelenting attack, fully commit ourselves to our vocation as mothers. We believe that no amount of professional or material success can compensate for failure at home.

We pledge ourselves:

- To raise our children to become moral and productive citizens of our country;
- To be vigilant and assiduously act against influences that are out to destroy the family and motherhood;
- To continuously uphold and protect the sacredness of life;
- To advocate world peace - a society free of guns.

We call on media - advertisers, the PANA and other advertising boards, movie, television, radio, print and e-media practitioners and their respective regulatory boards;

- To use media powerfully in positively influencing society's mores and values;
- To stop the proliferation of violence, smut and pornography in print, broadcast and electronic media;
- To refrain from using consumerist and hedonistic messages especially those that encourage the exploitation of women and children;
- To be one with us in our struggle against the forces that seek to destroy the institutions of family and motherhood;

We call on all our political, business, civic and religious leaders to lead us in the campaign for public morality. We ask them to be shining examples of rectitude and good moral conduct.

We urgently ask the honorable members of Congress and the Senate:

- To support bills and programs that will uphold and strengthen the family, motherhood and the sacredness of life;
- To oppose anti-family bills such as those advocating artificial contraception and population control, legalization of divorce, abortion, and same-sex marriages;
- To oppose anti-family programs such as the Western-style classroom sex education that is being introduced to our very young children.

We appeal to our President, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who is a mother herself, to re-channel all public funds and resources that are presently being used in anti-natalist programs to authentic human development and welfare programs.

Signed by 9,750 participants in the Mothers' Festivals held simultaneously in the Archdiocese of Manila and in the provinces of Cagayan de Oro, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Cebu, Ilocos Norte, Laguna, Leyte, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac.

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# *Sunday*SPORTS

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**SIX DIGIT**
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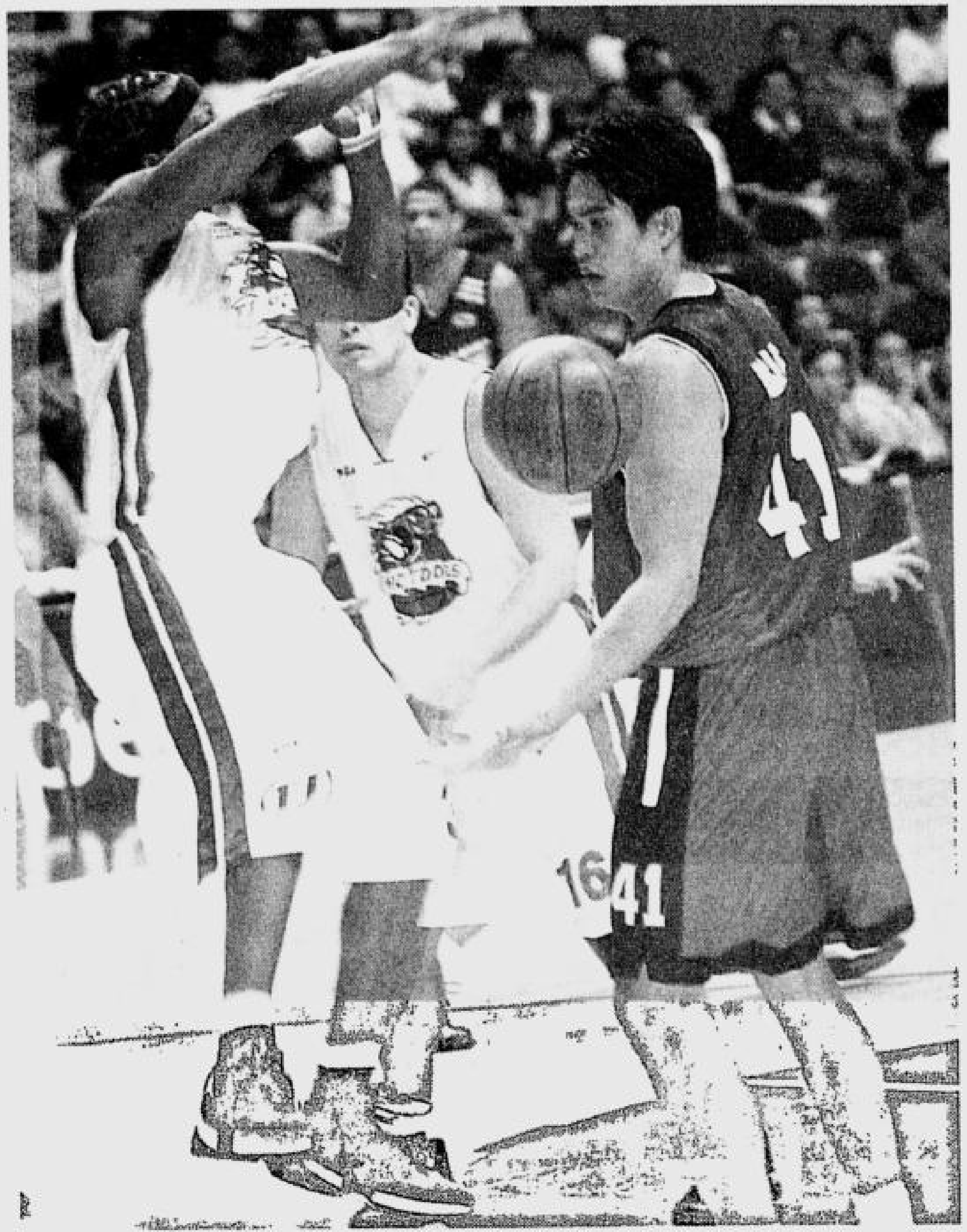


AUGUST DELA CRUZ

**DERRICK Brown of Purefoods (left) loses the ball to Alaska's Migs Noble as Alvin Patrimonio and Ron Riley look on in Game 3 of their Finals series Thursday. Purefoods won, 80-66.**

# Purefoods seeks equalizer today

**GAME TODAY** *(Araneta Coliseum)*
5:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Purefoods

Game 1—Alaska d. Purefoods, 79-73
Game 2—Alaska d. Purefoods, 106-102 2OT
Game 3—Purefoods d. Alaska, 80-66

**By June Navarro**

**PUREFOODS has found an antidote to neutralize Alaska's winning formula.**

The Hotdogs try to utilize it again when they seek to level the series in the Finals of the PBA Samsung Governors Cup tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

Despite trailing in the best-of-seven championship affair at 1-2, the Hotdogs are in the mood to replicate an 80-66 victory over the Aces last Thursday.

"We're back in the series but we must maintain the same attitude that we displayed against Alaska in Game 3," said Purefoods interim coach Ryan Gregorio.

Gregorio added that Kelvin Price, who came out of his shell on Thursday night, must again share the offensive chores with Derrick Brown while the rest of the locals contribute their piece of the work load.

As the Aces focused on stopping Brown, Price got away with 10 points in the first quarter and 18 of his 20 points in the first half as the Hotdogs went into cruise control the rest of the way.

"He (Price) is aware that Derrick (Brown) couldn't do it alone so he stepped up and took it upon himself," said Gregorio, at 30, could become the third youngest coach in PBA history to win a title.

In Games 1 and 2, the Hotdogs leaned too much on Brown for the needed baskets especially in the final stretch without success.

As a result, the Aces seized Game 1, 79-73, and stole away Game 2 in double overtime, 106-102, to grab a commanding 2-0 lead in the series before the Hotdogs' breakthrough win on Thursday.

Credit also went to Kerby Raymundo, Rey Evangelista, Alvin Patrimonio and Roger Yap, who stuck like a leech on Ron Riley all night long.

Intimidated and out of control, Riley scored only 12 points, his lowest so far in the series.

"I told you Purefoods is capable of coming back. We were not caught flat-footed, Purefoods just played with a lot of energy and intensity in Game 3," said Alaska coach Time Cone.

# La Salle eyes 9th victory over Ateneo golf rivals

THE COMPETITIVE juices are starting to flow for the upcoming La Salle-Ateneo golf duel which tees off on May 28-30 at the north and south courses of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna.

Going on its 15th year, La Salle will seek to retain possession of the Ambassador Valdes Cup–the symbolic trophy which goes to the winning school–they won for the eighth time last year.

Ateneo, which had won five editions and managed to draw once, will try to narrow down the gap of victories with an improved roster in the event sponsored by PLDT, Smart, Pepsi, Taylor Made Adidas and Union Bank Visa.

For this year's competition, the playing field will be distributed in three days. This should give way to faster play and improved scoring. Day and course assignments are as follows: May 28, ages 20-29 (south), ages 30-39 (north); May 29, ages 40-49 (south), ages 50-59 (north); May 30, ages 60 and above (north), 19 and below and ladies division (south).

The same modified Blind Callaway format will be applied in the tournament. Entry fee is P1,900 (inclusive of green fee, awards dinner, raffle, giveaways and one mulligan per nine) for non-members and P900 for Canlubang members.

Eligible are players and alumni from any Christian brother or any Jesuit-run school who must have at least completed two years in that school. Awarding will be held at the National Sports Grill in Greenbelt on May 30 at 6 p.m.

For more information, please contact the Ateneo Golf Foundation/Ateneo Alumni Affairs Office at 426-6081/82 look for Letty/Lara/Mercy or the De La Salle Alumni office at 527-0782/722-7750 or check out event posters for more details.

# Lakers-Kings series begins

SACRAMENTO, California—Dealing with Shaq and Kobe is tough enough. The Sacramento Kings face another daunting task as well–actually believing they can beat the Lakers.

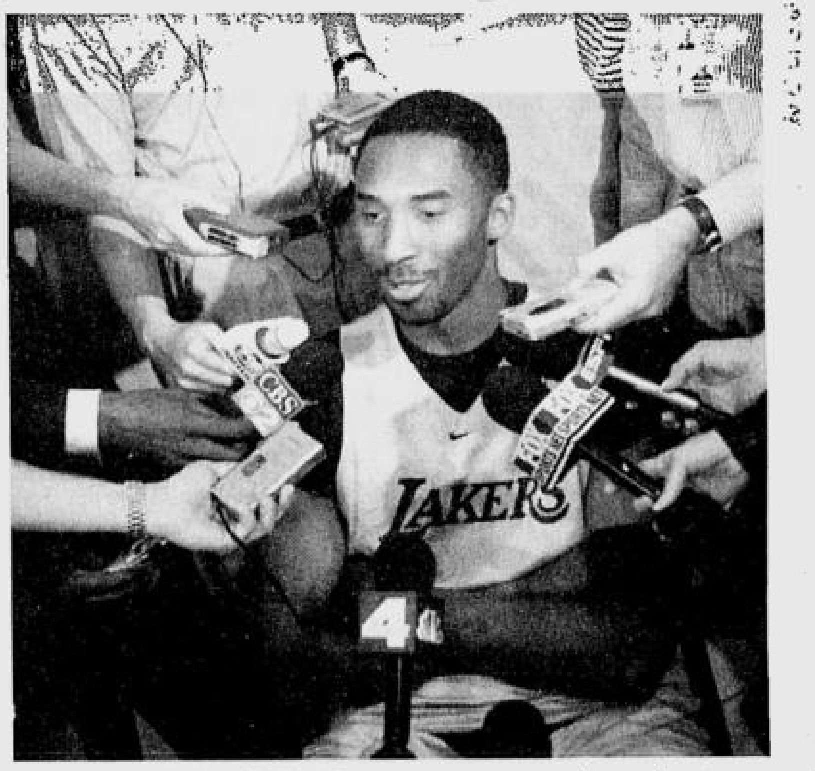
"They can make you doubt yourself," Sacramento guard Bobby Jackson said Friday as the Kings prepared for the Western Conference finals.

"They're so talented, but you've got to trust yourself and your teammates," he added. "Otherwise, they get a lead, and they get rolling, and they get into the fourth quarter, and you've seen what happens to everybody they play in the playoffs."

The Kings realize there's much more on the line than California bragging rights when the teams meet Saturday (Sunday in Manila) in Game 1 of a tantalizing series.

The Kings must draw on their consummate brand of team play to neutralize the unrivaled star power of the two-time champions. Sacramento may well play the league's most exciting style, but the Lakers have Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant.

The Kings aren't quaking just yet. They've waited all year for a third straight playoff shot at the champs. ***AP***



**LOS Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant answers questions prior to practice Friday at the team's practice facility in El Segundo, California.**

AP

## Solar telecast

SOLAR Entertainment will telecast Game 1 of the NBA Western Conference Finals between the Los Angeles Lakers and Sacramento Kings tonight (Sunday, May 19) at 9 on NBN-4. Game 2 will be on Tuesday, (May 21) at 5:30 pm.

Meanwhile, Solar shifts its NBA coverage to the other conference final in the East pitting the Boston Celtics against the New Jersey Nets for Game 2 on Thursday, May 23, at 10 p.m. and Game 3 on Sunday, May 26, at 9 p.m. on NBN-4.

# Intervillage Central fires off tomorrow

FIRST-ROUND action in the Nokia Intervillage golf tournament comes to a close Monday (May 20) when the Nokia Intervillage Central is staged at the Manila Golf and Country Club inside Forbes Park.

Six teams led by last year's sector champion Magallanes, under team captain Noel Legaspi, will see action in the tournament organized by Videocom in 1991 and sponsored by Nokia. Other supporters are PLDT, Mastercard, Philippine Airlines, ICTSI, Mizuno, Pisanti Golfwear, 357 Boracay Hotel, Alaxan and National Sports Grill.

The other competing teams in the twelve-to-play, eight-to-count tournament are Bel-Air under Rod Feliciano, Urdaneta under Charlie Carmona, Wack Wack under Michael Tan, Green Meadows under Dennis Huang and Forbes Park under Dennis Valdes.

The tournament, organized to promote fellowship and camaraderie among the golfing villages, fired off last month with the opening rounds in the North, South and East tournaments with Corinthian Gardens, Alabang 400 and Greenhills 1 showing the way.

The final 18 holes of the North tournament is set May 28, South tournament June 4, East tournament June 17 and Central tournament June 25—all at Wack Wack's west course. The top three teams in each tournament will advance to the Nokia Grand-Intervillage in November.

**CELEBRITY Anjo Yllana of Tahanan Village team does a jig after narrowly missing the hole in the Mastercard P50,000 one putt contest of the Nokia Intervillage tourney at Manila Golf.**

# Asistio, Sotto shine in Jungolf circuit 7th leg

TONTON Asistio made a high-impact return to Philippine Airlines-backed Jungolf Summer Circuit by edging the fancied bets in winning the Class B crown even as Matet Salivio nipped Katrina Gonzalez in a sudden-death playoff for the girls Class A title recently in the Wack Wack Jungolf Open.

Asistio, playing his first event in the summer circuit, tallied rounds of 79-74-74 to beat seeded rivals Carl Santos Ocampo and Rhiz de Roca by a mere stroke with his 227 aggregate in the divison for 13-14 year olds.

Vendric Tan also went through the proverbial eye of the needle to beat DJ Padilla by one and Korean Lee Seong Ki by two for the boys Class A (15-17 years) crown.

Over at the Riviera executive course in Silang, Cavite, Paulina Sotto, daughter of television host/comedian Vic, led the winners by topping girls Class D (9-10 years) while Carlos Tinio III topped the boys side.

JR Gonzales, meanwhile, took his sixth consecutive leg victory and Marvi Monsalve ruled the girls event in Class E (8 and under).

The tourney is the seventh leg of the summer circuit partly sponsored by Adidas Taylor Made the standouts of which will be flown to San Diego by the country's flag carrier, PAL, for the Junior World this coming July.

**The top finishers:**

Class A: Boys (Vendric Tan 232, DJ Padila 234, SK Lee 235, KW Lim 240, Adrian Valbuena 240) Girls (Matet Salivio 246, Katrina Gonzalez 246)

Class B: Boys (Tonton Asistio 227, Rhiz de Roca 228, Carl Santos Ocampo 228, IG Gutierrez 232, Kheea Ng 233) Girls (Linnel de Villa 257, Geleen Handog 260, Erlaine Lumanog 264)

Class C: Boys (Migo Ochoa 233, Steven Bolivar 240, Gabby Asistio 241, Mikee Camitoc 243, Junro Mamaril 246) Girls (Mabel Salivio 256, Katrina Briones 261, Crystal Superal 268)

Class D: Boys (Carlos Tinio 188, Holen Juan Superal 191, Jovy Ong 195, Nico Monsalve 217, Lawrence Celestino 227) Girls (Paulina Sotto 208, Cyna Rodriguez 212, Angelica Dalingaling 269)

Class E: Boys (JR Gonzales 175, James Ricohermoso 197, AR Ramos 206, Don Martin Fernandez 208, Allan Dalingaling 217) Girls (Marvi Monsalve 238, Erin Feliciano 244, Katya dela Cruz 245)

# Louie Espinosa: The prodigal son

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

I WILL pick Luisito Espinosa the winner on May 23 not because he is my wedding godson but because I feel he's ready to win again.

I've seen him win the big one. If Louie wants to win, he'll win.

In his last two, three, fights, I knew he would lose. He was ill-prepared. His mind was not there. Not even his heart. He fought merely for the money.

Boxing isn't just money. It's more of pride than anything. Muhammad Ali epitomized that to the hilt.

I say Louie is going to win because it took Louie almost 18 months to reinvent himself again.

"This is his last hurrah," said Noel Rivera, Louie's new manager. "Before I agreed to handle him, I had a heart-to-heart talk with him. I told him we had to start all over again."

They were buddies, more than brothers in fact, back in 1987. That was the year when Louie set foot in America. Hermie Rivera, Louie's discoverer, brought the former bamboo gatherer from Tondo to the modest Rivera home in Newark, San Jose, USA. Months later, Louie would win the world bantamweight crown via a sensational first-round knockout of Kaokor Galaxy in Bangkok. His trainer then for the fight was Toti Sangalang, who died only a while back.

Louie went on to scale more heights. And then it was downward, caused mainly by his shocking move to part ways with Rivera, his mentor for more than a decade.

But like the biblical prodigal son, Louie soon found his way back into the arms of the Riverns. A guy with a soft heart, Hermie took Louie back without questions asked. This time, though, it would be Hermie's son, Noel, who would take control of the lost sheep.

Noel did a major surgery on Louie.

Incorporating every trick in the book of the sweet science with the knowledge imparted him by his father, Noel soon found Louie regain his old self.

"I've never seen him train this hard," said Noel. "He totally put his mind and heart into this fight."

I can sense it. Louie will score his 27th knockout when he battles Ever Beleno at the Compaq Center in San Jose on May 23 (May 24 in Manila). Don't you dare think Beleno is a pushover; his record is 38 wins against 10 defeats. But, hey, 35 of Beleno's 38 wins came by knockout.

In an e-mail, Hermie wrote: "Yup, Louie's new team headed by Noel has done a splendid job of putting him back into shape—physically and mentally. The fight has drawn considerable support from Bay Area Filipinos, Mexicans, Latinos and even the gringos. Why no less than Phil Bronstein, the top honcho of the Chronicle, and his lovely wife, Sharon Stone, are the VIP guests on fight night. Oscar de la Joya's boxing card will be a sure blockbuster.

"Now if only Ever Beleno will show up.

"Till here. As always, keep on friggin' punchin'."

Gosh, if only I have the time (and money), I'll be at ringside the night of the fight.

# 'Fistorama'at Cantada arena

SAN Miguel Beer's "Fistorama" today features RP rated No. 1 super bantamweight and PBF No. 1 Jr. bantamweight Tony Taperla against RP rated No. 8 super flyweight and PBF No. 2 jr. bantamweight Daniel Diolan for the PBF vacant junior bantamweight championship.

The fight was held Monday night at the jampacked, state-of-the-art Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Taguig, Metro Manila.

The championship was the main event of an action-filled card presented by Boy Cantada Boxing Promotion. "Fistorama" is produced by Joe Cantada Sports and presented by San Miguel Beer.

## SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

**BASKETBALL:** NBA Anthology – '89 Detroit Pistons Motor City Madness at 6 a.m. (r) on ESPN

NBA Playoffs Conference Finals – LA vs Sacramento, Game 1 at 6:30 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.), Boston at New Jersey, Game 1 tomorrow 5:30 a.m. on ESPN

**TENNIS**: Masters Series (Hamburg) - Men's Semifinal Match #1 at 8 a.m. (r – 11 p.m.), Match # 2 at 10 a.m. on Star Sports

AFP

**PREAKNESS BET**

Kentucky Derby winner War Emblem gallops around the Pimlico racecourse in Baltimore, Maryland in preparation for the 127th running of the Preakness Stakes, second leg of the US Triple Crown series, on Saturday (Sunday in Manila). War Emblem has been installed as the 3-1 second choice in the 13-horse field.

# Express Tour stakes P1M

IN AN EFFORT to draw out the best from the country's top cyclists, Airfreight 2100, the sole franchisee of FedEx in the Philippines, is giving away close to P1 million in prizes when the FedEx Express Tour kicks off the inaugural four-day Calabarzon race on May 30.

Topping off the prize breakdown is the P200,000 pot for the team champion and the P50,000 purse for the individual titlist of the event which will kickoff the revival of the annual Tour.

"We are hoping that these cash incentives will be an added boost to the cyclists. More importantly, this will also put them back into preparation because now, they know that they have the FedEx Express Tour to look forward to every summer," said Bert Lina, chairman of Airfreight 2100 and the generous godfather of the Tour's revival.

# RCPI enters finals

**GAME TODAY** (Olongapo Convention Center)
3 p.m.—Olongapo vs LBC Batangas

By Roy Luarca

BACOLOD CITY—Reynel Hugnatan played the savior's role as RCPI Negros bested Professional Davao, 93-90, last night and barged into the MBA First Conference finals at the packed University of St. La Salle Coliseum here.

The 6-foot-4 Hugnatan canned 31 points, five of them in the last two minutes, and grabbed 14 rebounds to tow the Slashers to their fourth championship appearance.

The Slashers led by as many as 13 points, 40-27, but the Eagles rallied to within 56-50 at halftime.

A series of Slashers turnovers, however, enabled the Eagles to seize the lead at 74-69 by the end of the third quarter.

RCPI Negros will meet the winner of the Olongapo-LBC Batangas knockout semifinal at 3 p.m. today at the Olongapo Convention Center in a best-of-five title series.

The Olongapo Volunteers have beaten the LBC Batangas Blades twice, but aside from the psychological edge, another thing going for them is the homecourt advantage.

This is the same venue where the Volunteers first beat the Blades, 90-85, on April 7.

Starring Brixter Encarnacion and Jeffrey Flowers, the Volunteers repeated over the Blades, 90-85, on May 12 at the Lipa Youth and Cultural Center to emerge the Northern Conference top qualifier and gain the homecourt edge.

"The homecourt advantage will really work for us. It doesn't guarantee a win but it would really make the job a little easier," said Olongapo coach Junel Baculi.

The Volunteers, of course, have won all their three games at the 2,500-seater, air-conditioned venue.

Baculi, a five-time PBL champion and two-time Asian Interclub champion coach, said they would just have to exert more defensive effort on Blades gunners Eddie Laure, Alex Compton, Jeffrey Sanders and Tonyboy Espinosa.

According to Baculi, however, they can't afford to let their guards down as the Blades would always be hard to beat being the reigning national champions.

For his part, LBC Batangas coach Nash Racela said they are ready to face the Volunteers.

"The hometown crowd would definitely be a factor, but we've been through similar situations before," said Racela. "The guys played well during practice and I hope they stay that way for the knockout game."

## SPORTSWATCH

### Capriati No. 1

ROME—Jennifer Capriati reclaimed the world number one ranking from the injured Venus Williams by beating Amelie Mauresmo 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the Italian Open on Friday. The American now plays compatriot Serena Williams in the last four. Kim Clijsters set up a last four tussle with fellow Belgian Justine Henin after both cruised through their matches. In one of the most competitive games of the tournament, Capriati had to battle all the way to overcome Mauresmo's determined challenge. *Reuters*

### Hewitt ousted

HAMBURG, Germany—World number one Lleyton Hewitt was blasted off court by Russian Marat Safin on Friday and Roger Federer sent second seed Gustavo Kuerten packing on a day of quarterfinal upsets at the Hamburg Masters. Safin, himself a former world number one, left top seed Hewitt shell-shocked on Rothenbaum's centre court with some brutal hitting in his 6-3, 6-1 victory while Federer stormed into the semifinals 6-0, 1-6, 6-2. Hewitt's counter-punching style proved ineffectual against the sheer might of Safin's shots. *Reuters*

### Woods 2 behind

HEIDELBERG, Germany—Tiger Woods shot a 3-under-par 69 in the first round of the Deutsche Bank-SAP Open Friday, trailing early leaders Eduardo Romero of Argentina and South African Darren Fichardt by two strokes. Woods would have been three behind had playing partner Romero not missed an 18-inch (45 cm) putt on the last hole. "It wasn't my best but any round in the 60s today is a job well done," Woods said of his steady start. He birdied four holes but dropped a shot at the long 17th (his 8th hole) after he started his round on the back nine. Woods said the slower greens on the St. Leon-Rot course, where holes 2 to 16 have been redesigned since last year, attributed partly to his score. *AP*

# Unbeaten Unbreakable launches Triple Crown quest

CLASSY colt Unbreakable is expected to go up as first favorite when he battles other top three-year-olds in the 25th Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. Cup, first leg of the 2002 Triple Crown Championship Series, today at the Santa Ana Park.

The Cojuangco Cup, is a P1.67-million race traditionally held in honor of the founding chair of the Philippine Racing Commission, industrialist-sportsman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., who has been invited to grace the occasion.

"The Cojuangco Cup has always been one of the most highly anticipated classic races of the year," said lawyer Ramon Ereñeta Jr. executive vice president and COO of the host Philippine Racing Club.

Unbreakable's runaway victories in the run-up Chairman's Cup and the PCSP Grand Championship races has somewhat overshadowed the competition.

The unbeaten Unbreakable, a colt by US-bred stallion Say The Truth (Fappiano) out of Brazen Star, is gunning for a fourth straight win. He has not been seriously threatened in all of his starts, winning all four races in decisive fashion under the hands of leading jockey, Patricio Dilema.

# Perfect host

**ONE WINNER**

*Edwin Villanueva*

IS Unbreakable unbeatable?

*Kareristas* will find that out today when the highly touted colt opens his Triple Crown campaign and tries to pad his winning run to five.

Unbreakable's biggest problem in the one-mile contest (Cojuangco Cup) could either be Jun Almeda's Golden Ballet or Patrick Uy's What A Spell.

But everyone else is also keeping an eye on Joy Rojas' Material Maker, the stretch-running filly who'll be coupled with Art of Rose.

Could anyone among this year's three-year-old candidates score a sweep like what Silver Story did last year?

If you have time, the best place to be this afternoon is at the Santa Ana Park.

***

**Like what he usually does, Malate businessman Myther Macatangay Buñag played perfect host when the Klub Don Juan de Manila held its formal launching at his popular Myther and Friends pub along Adriatico St. (1789).**

**"I'm happy when all my friends are here," said Myther, who, by the way, is turning 52 on May 26.**

**Myther's big bash, however, will be held on May 23, with all his politician-friends and buddies from the media, business and horse racing world expected to come in droves.**

***

One Winner can also be reached through evillanueva@sports.com.ph or sports@inquirer.com.ph

# South Luzon fun match on

THE SOUTHERN Luzon German Shepherd Dog Association will hold its 1st Landesgruppen Fun Match today at the Cuenca football field, Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa.

Through its chair Mon Sison and president Edrich Cabrera, SLGSDA has invited Mel Tuazon to judge the opening fun match.

SLGSDA was formally launched recently at Philippine Columbian Association under the umbrella of GSDF. It was primarily established to cover the area of Southern Luzon and Calabarzon Area to hasten development of German Shepherd Dog Breeding.

SLGSDA will cover the Calabarzon area with the fun match as the launching pad of the series of three Landesgruppen Sieger show. Future venues of events will be held in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon and may reach as far as Bicol area.

GSDF format of competition will be applied. Anatomy, temperament, power and agility will be the standard of selection. Puppy class will pick off at 9 a.m while the junior, intermediate and open class will start at 1 p.m.

Leading the entries in the open class male are Calypso Schloss Ramsberg, Leo Urbecke, Ceres della Carlota, Jasko Danischenhof, Iso Zellwadrand, Pilar Urbecke, Baer Von Bann, Hanno Dunieschenke, Vax Arlett, while female category is bannered by Jassy Oxalis, Kessa Piste Trophe, Bagheera Schloss Ramsberg, Ugana Von Hugnegrab, Xolly Fitchenschlag, Gina Von Bann and local born Eunice Glaserball.

Sponsors are Eukanuba, Diamond Dog Food, Nutra Nuggets, Happy Dog, Animal House and Natures. Interested parties may call 8509848, 4330418, or 8420655.

# Amado aims for top breeder plum

FORMER Rep. Amado Bagatsing, one of the very few sportsmen who maintain horses and gamefowls in a farm, will be gunning for the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year award when the 3rd Conference LGBA 7-Cock Championship Derby unfolds at the Mandaluyong Coliseum on May 28 and 30.

Bagatsing's bet, Air Gladiator, currently leads the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year race after posting a total 9.5 points in the last two derbies.

Comprising Bagatsing's main fighters are Roundhead Whitehackle (acquired from his friend engineer Jun Sevilla) and the Baham Greys crossed with Ray Alexander Lacy roundhead from the late Speaker Mitra Farms.

In close second spot with eight points apiece, are OPMI president Vic Yu (Mandaluyong Coliseum), lawyers Virgilio Manguera, Mario Antonio and justice Magdangal Elma (M2 Chito) and Dong Chung/ William Go (5th of May Gold Cup).

Meanwhile, over 10,000 stags have been screened and banded by the LGBA stag screening committee, according to LGBA president Boy Diaz who also announced that the group's membership swelled to 84, from an original 48 members last season.

## RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Rumaragasa 2. Apple Splash 3. Windlass 4. Foreign Exchange
Race 2—1. Cheese Laffongga 2. Tender Value 3. Rising Fast 4. Red Hahn 5. Fire Task
Race 3—1. Smart Boy 2. Green Leaves 3. Earth Angel 4. Lady Victoria 5. Be Ready
Race 4—1. High Roller 2. Speed Master 3. Going Free 4. Dream Play
Race 5—1. Doña Gelay 2. Red Dash 3. Dance in the Wind 4. Beat D Heat 5. Gleaming Heart
Race 6—1. Redding Drive 2. Pabuya 3. Hitman 4. Cycloneferros 5. Snake Dancer
Race 7—1. Unbreakable 2. Material Maker/Art of Rose 3. Golden Ballet 4. Mighty Strong 5. What A Spell
Race 8—1. Burning Light 2. Countess Diana 3. James Joy 4. Hollywood Park 5. Hurry Prince
Race 9—1. Kay Gee Em Ey/Kayang Kaya 2. Brazen Truth 3. Shooting Star 4. Schwarzenegger 5. Impeachment
Race 10—1. Halo Effect 2. Rosewood 3. River Bee 4. Prince Valiant 5. Laguna Gold
Race 11—1. Run for Cash 2. Key to Heaven 3. D Optician 4. Classy Babe 5. Friendly Lover
Race 12—1. Jade Louise/Sharon's Cookie 2. Cat's Bells 3. Speed Goddess 4. Hacker 5. Astuce
Race 13—1. Gidget 2. Corporate Law 3. Flying Strike 4. Better Harry 5. Boy Yoski
Race 14—1. Mother Earth 2. Time Specialist 3. Two Thumbs Up 4. Rock's Dragon 5. Irish Diplomat 6. Roman Music

**KLUB DON JUAN DE MANILA**

The newly-formed horse racing group Klub Don Juan de Manila recently held its highly successful launching at Myther and Friends along Adriatico Street in Malate. Shown from left are members Ernie Quizon, Sonny Arevalo, Myther Buñag, Chino Pamintuan, Natoy Almeda, Rod Catindig, George Diploma, Vic Tiangco, Cito Esquivias, Noli Umali, Jun Almeda, Raph Mondragon, Tony Boy Eleazar, Nano Almeda, Mikey Arroyo, Rudy Pamintuan, Jorge Cabreza, Albert Trinidad, Alvin Ferreras and Vince Trinidad.

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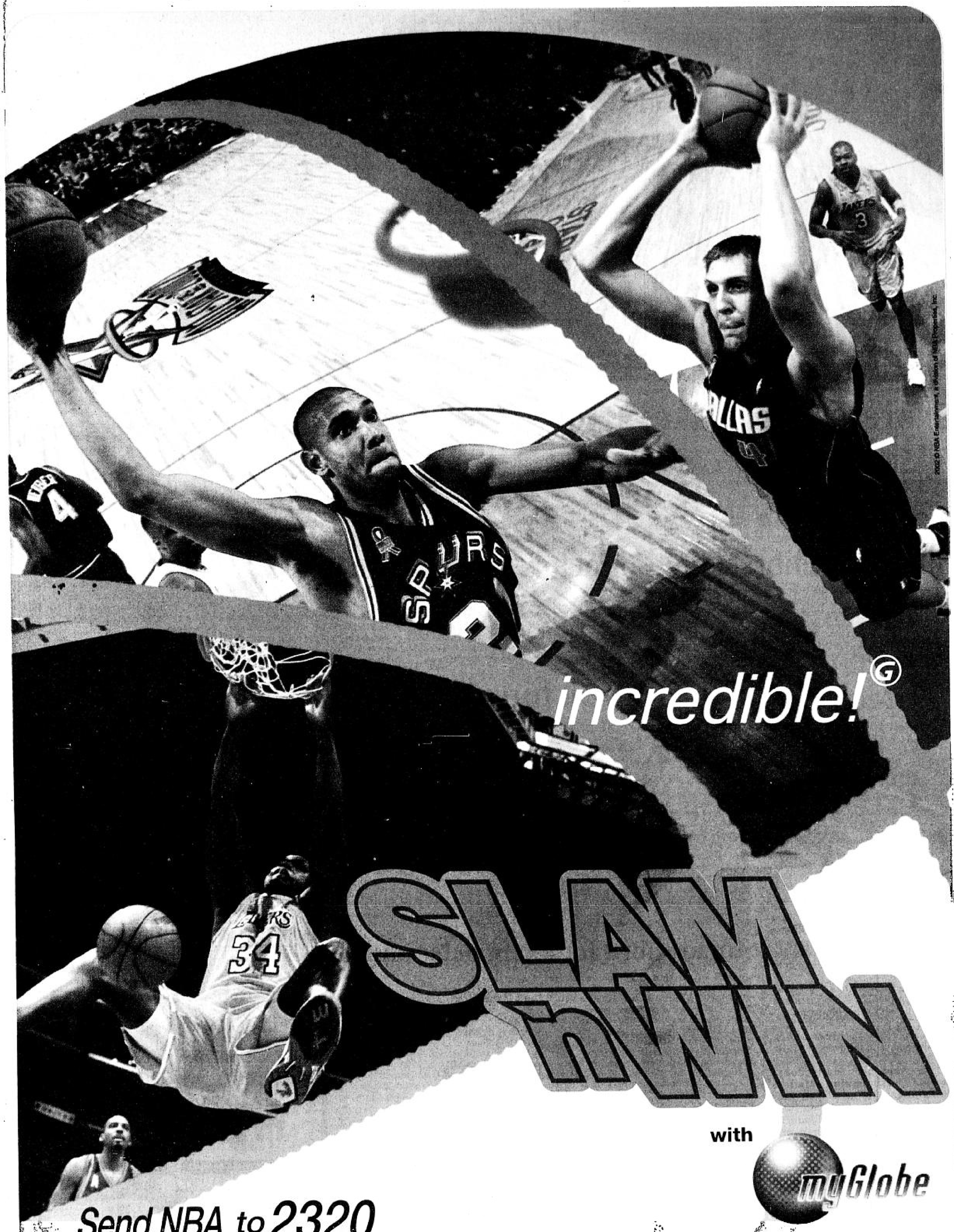

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# METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ Squatters consulted, say QC, UP authorities /A24

SHINING MOMENT kicks off effort to clean 30,000 pairs of shoes. JOAN BONDOC

# NGO, El Shaddai gun for Guinness record

By Alcuin Papa

**A NON-GOVERNMENT organization committed to helping the poor is hoping to walk away with the world record for the most number of shoes shined at one time.**

The Succor Association Inc. gathered together about 400 volunteer shoe cleaners in an attempt to shine 30,000 pairs of shoes.

The volunteers started on their shoe-shine marathon at about 5 p.m. on the grounds of the Amvel Business Park in Sucat, Parañaque. The cut-off time for the event was set for 11 last night.

Karl Miranda, Succor spokesperson, said the group would submit the achievement as a possible entry in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Miranda said the event is meant to raise awareness of their programs for the poor and at the same time set a world record. He said his group would be happy to shine 7,000 pairs.

The event was organized together with the El Shaddai religious group and coincided with one of the group's prayer meetings.

"We thought the El Shaddai is the only one capable of getting together tens of thousands of people, so we decided to hold the

NGO/ A24

MARQUEZ

AQUINO

# Mayor Joey: I will not use Kris

By Leah Salterio

"PURELY friendship" is how Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez describes his relationship with TV game show host Kris Aquino.

After rumors flew about their midnight trysts in Kris' house in New Manila, Quezon City, Marquez carefully talked about what he said was the real score.

On talk that he is running after Aquino, the politician who is also a comedian said, "She's the type *na dapat talagang habulin.* Who will not fall in love with her? She is beautiful and thoughtful."

"Whoever is seen with me now, the public will always put malice into it because I'm separated," said Marquez, who recently filed for the annulment of his almost 12 years of marriage to actress Alma Moreno.

He said he and Aquino have a very wholesome relationship. "We enjoy talking and our conversations are always wholesome, like the text messages we send to each other," he said.

MAYOR/ A24

EHLERS and his bag of tricks. JEROME ANING

# Magician with a mission

By Jerome Aning

BILL Ehlers considers himself a magician with a mission.

The wandering magician, who also calls himself simply "Professor," has been touring various entertainment spots in Metro Manila and other places for almost a year now.

And he wants to perform in more places.

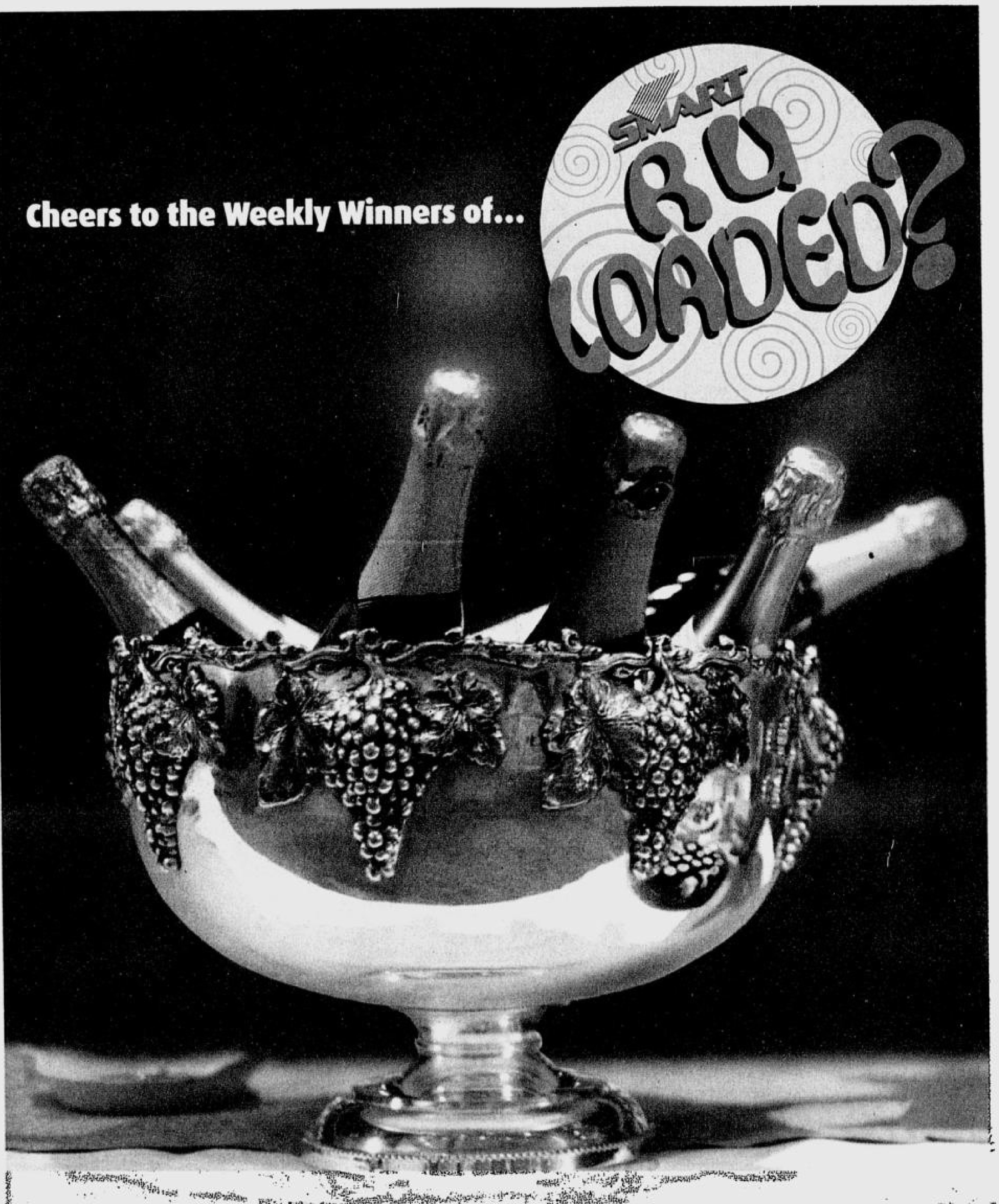
The 36-year-old Texas-born Las Vegas resident puts on free magic shows and solicits donations for sick and needy children.

The INQUIRER watched Ehlers last weekend when he performed before customers of the Las Piñas Bistro in Zapote, Las Piñas City.

Ehlers was armed with two metallic cases containing his magic "gears and gadgets," as well as two empty tin cans.

"One can is for the tip, the other is for the

MAGICIAN/ A24



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# *Former vice mayor returns from the 'dead'*

**By Tina Santos**

"I THOUGHT you were dead."

That was what people had been telling former Caloocan vice mayor Oscar Malapitan since he came back last Thursday after staying in San Francisco, California for almost a year.

That was exactly the reason he had to cut short his vacation: to clarify the circulating text messages that said he had been dead.

"I'm very much alive and kicking," Malapitan said yesterday.

He claimed that his family and other relatives, particularly his father and sister, were hysterical when they called up his residence in San Francisco after they received the text message about his "death."

The text message reads: "Your cell number is found in his phone book. Please be informed that ex-VM Oca Malapitan died in a vehicular accident in Nevada, USA, May 12. Join hands...Please pray for his soul."

Although Malapitan said he has no idea who spread the false information, he was not ruling out the possibility that it might be related to politics.

"I lost the election, and now they're doing this to me," he said.

Malapitan said he was surprised by the reaction of people who saw him.

"Even ordinary people thought I was already dead," he said. "Now I have to go around every barangay just to inform them that the text message they got was false."

# For abused kids, women

**By Nelson F. Flores**

MANDALUYONG City finally has its own center for abused women and children.

Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. announced this last Thursday, a day after his wife Menchie led the inauguration of the city's first "Bahay Tuluyan," a crisis center for abused women and children.

The center, which is located beside the Vergara Barangay Hall, was created through a city ordinance authored by Councilors Cherry Lynne Santos and Teresita Pillas and after lobbying by the Kababaihang Kakaiba ng Mandaluyong (KKM), a non-government organization engaged in the empowerment of women in the city.

The two councilors said they sponsored the ordinance following increasing reports from the local Department of Social Welfare and Development office and the Mandaluyong City police women's desk about the growing cases of violence and abuse against women and children.

They said the facility would promote not just the welfare of women and children but also of the whole family.

"We cannot really protect our constituents from violence if the violence occurs right within their homes, but we can take preventive measures and intervening support systems for these women and children," Santos said.

Abalos said it is the obligation of the city government to look after the welfare of abused and battered women and children. They, he stressed, also contribute to the growth of the city.

"The implementation of such a worthwhile pro-women, pro-family program should be fully supported to ensure that our city will continue to be a peaceful community," Abalos stressed.

The center will focus on programs of prevention, early detection and intervention in domestic violence and other forms of abuse. It will be under the supervision of the local DSWD and the PNP women and children's desk.

Councilor Pillas said the budget for the center was mandated by Republic Act No. 7196.

Victims of domestic violence and sex-related crimes will be given appropriate treatment and counseling at the Bahay Tuluyan to help them recover, according to Ms Abalos.

# Squatters consulted, say QC, UP authorities

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines and the Quezon City Mayor's Office "adequately consulted" those who had been illegally staying on university property before they were evicted on May 13, according to a city official.

Danilo Sumayod, representative of the Urban Poor Affairs Office under the Quezon City Mayor's Office, denied reports that city and university did not hold a dialogue with the 35 affected families, who used to stay near the UP Visitor's Information Center.

"UP technically has the legal right, both as an educational institution and a government entity, to push through with the eviction," Sumayod said.

He said that on May 3, an inter-agency committee composed of the UP Diliman administration, UPAO, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, the Presidential Commission on Urban Poor, the Commission on Human Rights, the local police, and representatives from the squatter community finalized plans to implement the relocation of affected families from May 6 to 10.

But on May 7, some residents of Barangay San Vicente in UP and nearby areas went to Quezon City Hall and asked Mayor Feliciano Belmonte to stop the dismantling of 16 illegal structures occupied by the affected families.

On May 13, UP was able to implement "a smooth eviction of the settlers," Sumayod said. But stories that came out the following day reported that the mayor issued a directive to delay the demolition.

"Contrary to news reports, the mayor did not issue any directive instructing the City Council or any of the local government agency to stop the demolition," said Sherry Amoranto, a member of the Mayor's Office staff.

"The mayor himself didn't actually meet the protesters when they rallied here," Sumayod said. "Our head, Mr. Ramon Asprer, and Councilor Ariel Inton of District 4 were the ones who actually went out to meet them and they promised to appeal to UP."

Gil Gotiangco, UP Diliman vice chancellor for community affairs, said they made sure the settlers were aware of the development plans of the university.

"The university initially did not have a demolition in mind but a peaceful resolution through renovation which they consistently refused," he said.

UP has already prepared a relocation site in Montalban, Rizal for the settlers with the help of the NHA. In fact, one of the main objectives of the inter-agency committee was to ensure that the affected families would not end up homeless.

## METROBRIEFS

### Wounded cop dies

SPO2 DAMASO Rivera, the traffic policeman who on Friday was wounded when he tried to stop robbers in Manila, died at the Philippine General Hospital yesterday morning from shrapnel wounds he sustained from a grenade blast. SPO4 Rodolfo Rival of the Manila police said the robbers escaped after they shot to death courier Edwin Patricio, 26, of the Edzen Enterprises and Money Changing Shop in Ermita, Manila. Patricio's companion, Jerome Caasi, was able to escape with his backpack containing P6 million. The messenger's police escort, PO3 Precelio Tongol, is still confined at the PGH for a gunshot wound in the stomach. Police said seven men on board two cars and two motorcycles waylaid Tongol and the couriers in the Lagusnilad underpass on P. Burgos Avenue about 5:30 p.m. Friday.

*Jerome Aning*

### Man shoots pa, kills self

SUSPECTED drug user Jun Ferrer killed himself after he beat up and shot his 62-year-old father in Quezon City last Thursday. Ferrer, 26, died before he reached Quirino General Hospital, police said. Police believed he was under the influence of drugs when, for no apparent reason, he pistol-whipped his father in the head and shot his foot in their house. Ferrer then went to his room, locked the door, switched off the lights, and shot himself, witnesses told police.

*Agnes Donato*

### Boy driver hits ma, son

PUBLIC school teacher Zenaida Egea, 56, was killed, while her son Alberto Jr., 27, was injured when the motorcycle they were riding collided with a Tamaraw FX (PYV 751), which was said to be driven by a 13-year-old boy in Caloocan City on Friday. Police said Egea, of Meycauayan, Bulacan, died while undergoing treatment at the Quezon City General Hospital. Alberto is recovering at the Chinese General Hospital. Police said the 13-year-old surrendered after he hit the mother and son on Congressional Road in Bagumbong, Caloocan, Friday morning.

*Tina Santos*

# NGO, El Shaddai . . .

(From page A23)

event during one of their prayer meetings," Miranda said. "Plus, some of our volunteers in the attempt are members of the group."

The shoe-shine marathon will climax with the participation of El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde, guests from local and national government offices and prominent members of the private sector who will also have their shoes shined by the volunteers.

A previous record was set about three years ago by four Britons who cleaned 14,975 pieces of shoes in eight hours.

Organized last year, the Succor Association Inc. is made up of professionals in public service and from the private sector. The group organizes livelihood programs for "the poorest of the poor."

One of their livelihood programs is the establishment of shoeshine stalls in government and private agencies in Metro Manila. They charge P20 for every pair of shoes shined.

"Whether or not we set a record or not, the fact that people are asking how they can help our shoe-shine project is accomplishment enough," Miranda said.

# Magician with a mission

(From page A23)

children," he explains. "And you can easily guess which one often gets full first."

Foreign customers such as Japanese and Koreans give more money to his cause, he says.

His 25-minute performances usually serve as intermissions or special numbers in the establishment's program for the night.

At the Las Piñas Bistro, the magician performed about 30 tricks, many of them his original creations.

With the help of his devoted assistant and interpreter Tess, he scours slums in the metropolis to look for children in dire and desperate conditions.

"I don't help to make a difference, I help to make things matter for these children," he says.

The magician has become so popular because of his frequent visits that, on his way to the Las Piñas Bistro, streetchildren and residents from a nearby slum in Zapote followed him around.

In his visits to blighted communities, Ehlers gives several plastic bags full of goods to the children's families. A bag usually contains rice and other items such as clothing, shoes, a comb or even a teddy bear.

The "Professor" says he would be delighted and help poor children more if the parents try to help themselves and improve their condition.

When he has raised enough cash, he will distribute the money to the parents to help them start a small business, such as selling cigarettes and candies or newspapers.

"I consider children sick if they are poor," he says. "Poverty is a social illness."

Ehlers also visits hospitals, such as the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City, to search for really sick children.

Sometimes, he also performs magic for the little patients.

If he gets a large donation, he would make a substantial contribution to cancer research, he says.

Ehlers says he was "enchanted" by magic shows he saw on TV when he was a child. At eight, he got his own magic kit and began imitating tricks or making up new ones. He is a big fan of the noted magician David Copperfield.

From a hobby, magic became a profession for Ehlers. He later worked for 10 years with well-known magician Maxwell Blade and his "theater of magic" in the United States.

Ehlers has his own variations of familiar tricks. For instance, instead of producing a rabbit out of a hat or a box, Ehlers can make one appear on his palms with the wave of a kerchief.

"Magic tricks are easy to learn," he explains. "The hard part is performing them before a watchful and initially incredulous audience."

He says he first learned of the many urban poor children in the Philippines through the media and friends who had visited the country. He says he is particularly distraught hearing about children who are forced to beg on the streets of Metro Manila or sift through garbage just so they can eat.

The "Professor" says he considered letting "middlemen"—charitable and cause-oriented organizations—to handle the donations he receives, but he decided to do it himself to make sure the money goes straight to the children.

And unless he finds a magic wand or create a spell that can rid the world of poverty, Professor Bill Ehlers will continue his magic tours to give hope and happiness to poor children.

Entertainment establishments and other places interested in hosting Ehlers may call 0918.526.5708.

ERIK ARAZAS

**AIR SHOW**
**The statue of San Lorenzo Ruiz seems to be watching the kite-flying with the boys who gather at his feet at the Rizal Park.**

# Mayor Joey: I will not . . .

(From page A 23)

"Anybody who decides to see Kris should consider her position. She is the daughter of a (former) president. You also have to consider the situation and the people around us. We know our limitations."

He said they never talk about politics. He denied talk that he meant to use Aquino to help carry out his political plans.

"I don't intend to use her," said Marquez, who is on his third and last term as city mayor. "I believe I was elected to this position because of my own simple merits. I didn't use anyone in the past and I don't intend to use anyone in the future."

### Coffee dates

He did not deny, however, that he has been seeing Aquino.

"We go out for coffee," he said. "After that, I normally bring her home, although she doesn't ride with me. She rides in her own car with her own driver."

He pointed out he is not yet legally separated and so he cannot get into any serious involvement at this point. "Maybe in October or November, when my marriage is finally annulled, you can talk to me again and I can reveal whoever it is that I'm really seeing," he said.

"Kris needs somebody who can offer her something and I don't have that luxury right now," he said.

His children are his priority now, he said. He goes karting with his eldest son, 21-year-old Jeremy, in Carmona, Cavite.

Jeremy is from his very first marriage, when he was only 17. The girl was not from show biz.

"That marriage was dissolved because we were both minors," he said. "The girl and I were together for only four days before we got married. We lasted for only a few months."

His children with Moreno — Yeoj, Win-Win, VJ, Em-Em — live with him in his Tahanan Village house in Parañaque.

"My kids will go first even if I decide to get married again," he said. "The woman should not compete with my kids. I don't think they will be against anybody as long as I explain it to them well."

### Less pressure

Six months after he and Moreno separated, Marquez appears to be coping with being alone.

"I'm alone but never lonely," he said. "There are less pressures in my life now. I can go anywhere without having to answer or explain to anyone. There are no more fights. And I don't have to entertain other friends than mine."

Marquez filed for annulment two months ago, with former solicitor general Frank Chavez as his lawyer. Moreno is not filing a counter-suit, Marquez said. "In the first place, she was the one who asked for her freedom," he said.

"Right now, we have a very civil relationship. We still talk, but I don't meddle in anything she does and I don't stop her from doing what she wants to do. She has the right to do whatever she wants, like go back to the movies, do live shows and act on TV. I want her to be happy."

### 31-inch waist

He said he continues to give financial support to Moreno, who is now renting a house in Ayala Alabang.

"I told her that after the lease contract on the house expires, she can return to our house and live with the kids," he said. "I'll leave. My sister Via Hoffman is offering me her condo unit at The Fort because no one lives there."

Alone but not lonely, Marquez is trim and looks younger than his 42 years after he lost 40 pounds in three months. He is now down to 190 pounds from 230, and his waistline is down to 31 inches from 38.

"The after-six diet works for me," the mayor said. "The first few days, it was hard. Nahilo ako talaga. I had to take sleeping pills so I could sleep by 7 p.m. Now, I know how to regulate my meals. Sometimes, I eat only one meal a day and I get by."

# ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

# No room for panic for Jodie Foster

**By Janet Susan R. Nepales**
*Contributor*

LOS ANGELES—Who's afraid of Jodie Foster?

Or should we ask, who is Jodie Foster afraid of?

She may be as petite as our very own La Aunor, but this two-time Best Actress Academy award winner exudes such confidence, intelligence and control that she may unknowingly intimidate some people.

Foster, the Literature honors graduate from Yale, is probably the only actress in Hollywood who approaches acting "like a mathematical equation," displaying an analytical mind that is not so common among her peers.

When director David Fincher asked Foster, 39, to take over the lead role in Columbia Pictures' action-suspense-thriller "Panic Room" after original choice Nicole Kidman backed out following three weeks of filming due to knee injury she experienced in "Moulin Rouge," Foster didn't even think twice despite the short notice and the demands of learning everything in a very limited time.

We first see Foster, elegantly dressed in an off-white pantsuit, come out of one of the function rooms at a hotel in Beverly Hills after her first round of press interviews. Journalists and fans swarm around her for autograph or just a glimpse or a hello to the blonde actress.

The radiant beauty graciously signs autographs and with a friendly smile excuses herself to escape the start of a commotion. It is our first time to see writers and people in Armanis and Guccis starstruck. For her interview with us, the "thinking man's actress" changes into a gray pantsuit. She wears a gold band in the ring finger of her right hand and carries a small black handbag.

### Second choice

So how did she react when she learned she was replacing Nicole Kidman in "Panic Room"?

"It was okay with me," she says. "It just so happens that I also became available since Russell Crowe, who I am directing in 'Flora Plum,' also injured himself. 'Isn't that funny and ironic? I call it the Australian conspiracy!

"I immediately e-mailed Russell and told him, 'Guess what, I'm doing Nicole's movie! How ironic is that?"

"Panic Room," which was number one in the US box-office for two weeks in a row, is the story of a newly-divorced woman (Foster) and her teenage daughter (Kristen Stewart) who are both trapped in the panic room of their New York house when three intruders break in to steal millions of dollars supposedly stashed away somewhere in the property by its previous millionaire owner.

A panic room, called a castle keep during medieval times, is also known during these days as a "safe room." It is a secret, hidden room in the house, complete with security devices, separate phone lines, surveillance monitors, emergency food and paraphernalia, where the rich and powerful homeowners can retreat to in case of a break-in or a natural disaster.

"Seriously," Foster adds, "I really didn't mind being a second choice since I've done that with a movie once before and I liked it. Plus they really had to find an actor of my stature in two weeks to replace Nicole or they had to shut down because of the upcoming actors' strike then. So unless they found an actor in two weeks, the movie was dead.

"One of the advantages of coming in the middle of the film is you don't have time to think. You don't need to do the rehearsals. So many of the decisions are already made before you get on. You can just jump into it and I think I'm a good candidate for jumping into films."

### How she works

And what makes her a good candidate?

"I think because I'm also a director," she confidently replies. "I know how movies are made and I can go through the short hand route and figure out what the director is doing without having to sit through endless rehearsals and endless meetings. That's just the way I work. Sometimes in a film, if I over-prepare, I can get very bored before filming starts. So I think it's important to stay passionate and fresh."

So did director David Fincher ("Fight Club," "The Seven," "Alien 3") have to alter the Meg Altman character when Foster came on board?

"Yes, a little bit," she admits. "I think David changed some parts since there are some parts that I just can't play. We're just completely two different people. I'm not like Nicole."

Did Fincher make the character more aggressive?

FOSTER in "Panic Room." "It's important to stay passionate and fresh."

"No, I think she would still be aggressive in the end," she says. "In the beginning, perhaps she was more fragile. I think Nicole's character was much more fragile. She was somebody who was less wary and suspicious than my character."

### Strong women

Is a strong woman character (a rape survivor in "The Accused" and Special Agent Clarice Starling in "The Silence of the Lambs," among others) a big factor when she is considering a script?

"I think it's something I'm attracted to," she admits. "I like portraying strong women. I would also like to think that the central characters are usually strong characters. Even if it's a dumb blonde it should be a strong dumb blonde because if you are going to watch somebody for two and a half hours, you do not want to watch a weak character. Generally, the central characters are always the strong characters."

So is it true she approaches acting like a mathematical equation?

"Yes it's true," she confirms. "Or I approach it like a book report when you have to dissect things and you put them into lists and categories and you say, 'I don't need to know that, okay that doesn't help me, that doesn't help tell the story, this helps tell the story so I'm going to put this over here. Or this line doesn't make sense, let's take it out, let's replace it with this.'

### New thing

"Yes, I'm kind of mathematical. However, at some point, when somebody says action, then you just have to do it. Execution is the other part of the equation. And that makes the difference between a mediocre performance and a noble performance. You come in with all the information, all the logic and all the mathematics to do something quicker and better."

Asked if she will still produce films after she closed down her Egg Pictures, her 12-year-old production company, Foster replies, "It just means that I won't be producing other people's movies. I will, however, only produce those that I direct."

As for directing, she admits, "This is something I always look forward to. I'm a young director so I have a lot to learn. There are a lot of things I want to say as a director. It's a new thing to me. And I think most of my passion is in there.

"Acting, on the other hand, is a luxury. I have done it for so many years so now I can pick or choose what is good for me, how it can make my life better and so forth. That may sound selfish and narcissistic, but that's why I want to learn more about myself because these are questions that I have asked myself."

As a mother herself (she has two boys, Charles, 3, and Kit, 6 months), does she see herself doing everything to defend her children in the same way her character Meg Altman protected her daughter Sarah from the intruders (Forest Whitaker, Dwight Yoakam and Jared Leto) in "Panic Room?"

"I think so," she reveals. "I always felt motherhood is a part of my life."

### Big sacrifice

She admitted in one interview that she tries to limit herself to acting in one film every two years so she will have time to spend with her kids. She told Premiere magazine, "Raising them is so much more interesting than anything else I do."

She explains to us, "I don't do too many films not only because I'm pickier but also because it is a big sacrifice to leave home. And I just want to be sure that I feel passionate about the movies that I'm committed to because it is a big sacrifice.

"I just don't know how the other actors do it. I don't know how and I don't know why because this movie, for instance, took five and a half months, which is a pretty long time to be away from your kids. Most movies average five to four months long. You got three weeks prep, dubbing, cover photos, interviews, premieres. That's about a year.

"And in that time, you are not reading stories to your children. You don't see them. You don't spend quality time with them. You're not tucking your children to bed. And if you do movies back to back, you will never be able to read to your children. So I just can't imagine why you still have kids. Why have them if you're not gonna ever see them, right?"

### No disability

We inform her that costar Forest Whitaker revealed during our separate interview with him that he learned on the radio that Foster was pregnant while shooting "Panic Room." He was so surprised to hear of her pregnancy that he almost crashed his car after hearing it on the radio.

"Oh really," she calmly replies, a little bit amused. "He didn't know?"

Since a lot of unusual things happened during the filming of "Panic Room"—Nicole getting injured, rolling blackouts, technical problems and so on—Whitaker and Yoakam both thought the movie was jinxed or cursed. Foster, however, didn't feel that her pregnancy was going to jeopardize the filming.

"It's a reality. It's not a disability!" she exclaims with a laugh. "It didn't mean I was going to be in a wheelchair. It happens everywhere. It's just a piece of reality that gets thrown at you.

"But towards the end, I did have a few complications with my pregnancy but it was fine for them (the cast and crew). It was just painful for me."

She adds, "I just got exhausted easily. The whole thing was exhausting. I just tried to sleep as much as I could. There were some things that I couldn't do especially on the stunts like when Dwight Yoakam grabs me through the neck. He was supposed to sit on my stomach while he's grabbing me. But I just can't imagine me doing that."

She reflects further on her parent/star status: "Before I became a parent, I had no responsibilities and at the end of the day, I could say 'My day is over.' Well, with the kids now, not anymore. Now it's all about chores, telephone calls, chores for the kids and responsibilities. And I love every moment of it!"

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# OPM sound at The Tent

CATCH the hottest new band Q & A, in their concert "Tunog OPM Dekada sa Tent—Ah," May 30 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

Q & A is a refreshing retro band of fine session musicians who not only play good music of the '60s and '70s, but also have impressive looks. Headliners include Marvin Querido (formerly of Second Wind and Neocolours), drummer Mike Alba (from Passage band), guitarist Kettle Mata, saxophonist Francis de Leon, trumpet player John Campo, trombonist Toby Zapanta and record executive Chito Ilagan on bass.

On vocals are Jay Marquez, Lissa del Valle, Oliver Samson Conda, Michael Yonting and Jay Javier.

The concert is a fund-raising project for the Shining Light Foundation. Also featured are the boy bands of the '70s, Boyfriends, VST & Co. and Hotdog, with Leah Navarro and the Vicor Dancers.

Shining Light Foundation provides assistance to less fortunate individuals with diabetic-related ailments. Inspired by Shining Light's mission and fuelled by an undying love for original Filipino music (OPM), Milky Evangelista (producer/Party City head) teamed up with friends Joey Teotico and Emy Garcia-Reyes to mount the musical event.

"Tunog OPM . . ." is presented by Pagcor and PCSO and made possible through Joey 92.3, Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, Kusinerong Pinoy, NBC, Northwest Airlines and Richmonde Hotel.

Tickets are available at the Party City Office (535-2168), Talentworks (722-1320) and TicketWorld outlets at National Bookstore, Tower Records and Robinson's Malls.

NAVARRO

**SHOWS**

### True Faith

TRUE Faith, one of the country's popular bands, is slated to hold an evening of great music and fun with songs from their latest album, "LIVE (Legalized Intense Vague Emotions)," May 25 at Virgin Café in Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

Mounted with JLS Arts and Concept, the concert will showcase the musical talents of Jake Lumacad, Jay Valencia, Eugene Marfil, Bimbo Yance, June Dizon and Medwin Marfil.

The album "LIVE" is an interesting mix of R&B, pop and Motown music—genres that have endeared True Faith to countless people who appreciate what real music is all about.

For inquiries, contact Juanie Ang or Leonor Cabral at 254-1139, 256-0196, 0917-9647787 or 0917-5349641.

### Robinson's malls

AFTER officially launching their latest album, "A New Day," Parliament Syndicate performs at Robinson's Place in Novaliches and Robinson's Starmills, Pampanga on May 25.

"A New Day" is one album which the group is truly proud of. It still carries the former pop sound that the group is known for, but the real Parliament Syndicate can be felt in the new songs in the album.

The group is composed of Judith Alegarbes, Kim Lesaca, Victor Oria, Ruel Cabrera, Riki Gonzales, Ike Dy-liacco and Alex Fidel.

### Virgin Café

IT'S going to be a crazy summer entertainment showdown at Virgin Café Tomas Morato.

Spend Sunday nights with Chillworx, move and groove with Juice on Mondays, its "Jazz Nights" on Thursdays with Ugoy-Ugoy Band and Buhay, dance the night away on Wednesdays with Pido with Take One and Real Groove.

TRUE FAITH. To sing cuts from their latest album at Virgin Café.

South Border performs in the "Virgin Series" featuring Escape on Thursdays. Human Race and Toy Symphony heat it up on Fridays.

True Faith performs in a special show on May 25.

### Anniversary

JAM with Parokya ni Edgar and Pido With Take One as they take centerstage with Franco Laurel, Tin Arnaldo and Jamie Rivera at Sta. Lucia East on May 25.

The concert is part of the mall's 11th anniversary celebration. A spectacular fireworks display will cap the night.

On May 29, the traditional Flores de Mayo participated in by past and present winners of Generation East and Little Stars, plus reigning Bb. Pilipinas title holders, will add glitz and glamor to the celebration.

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# Catch 'The Sun' on E!

TALK about summer and nothing beats the idyllic wonders of Boracay Island. Recently, The Sun Village Beachfront Resort opened its doors to beachcombers in time to usher the fun-filled season.

E! Entertainment TV Philippines captures the festive moments in the island and airs from The Sun Village "Boracay at Sun and Style," a one-hour special at 7 tonight.

See how some of the country's who's who in fashion, business and media reveled in the comforts of the resort's impeccable amenities and succulent delicacies.

Highlight of the TV special is, the much-awaited finals of the Boracay Bodies Model Search 2002, a modeling and personality competition that recognizes the best male and female models who embody the Boracay essence of travel, fashion and the good life.

Have a front-seat treat as 20 gorgeous male and female models sashay down the runway and vie for the coveted title. The contest is sponsored by global brands Omega and Philips.

Hosted by E!'s babe Lana Asanin, "Boracay Sun and Style" is penned by Nanie Dayao and Meian Santos. Cameraman is Glen Rabina.

E! Philippines is seen over UHF (Free TV) Channel 31, Channel 14 on Dream Broadcasting System, Channel 16 on Destiny Cable, Channel 58 on Home Cable and Channel 64 on Sky Cable.

"SUN AND STYLE." (from left) Marc Nelson, Rissa Samson, Maurice Arcache, Edd Fuentes and E! Philippines TV host Lana Asanin.

# Lucas fails to recapture original fun, adventure

NEW YORK — "The dark side clouds everything," Yoda warns in the fifth installment of the "Star Wars" series.

He might as well have been talking about George Lucas' thinking.

"Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones" is better than the 1999 prequel, "Episode I — The Phantom Menace." Anything had to be. But Lucas, as writer-director-czar, still fails to recapture the fun and adventure that infused the original trilogy.

A bigger disappointment, though, is how derivative the movie is. Once hailed as the creative genius of our generation, Lucas has been copied so many times, he now seems obsolete, and ends up copying from himself.

As in 1980's "The Empire Strikes Back" — the best film in the series — "Clones" features an asteroid storm, lumbering mechanical contraptions, and a key character who loses a limb in a light saber duel.

But Lucas also steals identifiable, sometimes iconic imagery from at least a half-dozen other movies: the nightmarish cityscape of "Blade Runner"; the Coliseum showdown of "Gladiator"; the robotic gadgetry of "Robocop"; the open helicopter flight of "Apocalypse Now" and "Platoon"; and a conveyor belt sequence straight out of "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom."

### Premise

The premise is basically just "The Bodyguard," with light sabers. Senator Padme Amidala (Natalie Portman), former child queen of Naboo, is the target of an assassination attempt, and Jedi-in-training Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen), who's loved her from afar for the past decade, is assigned to protect her.

Meanwhile, Anakin's mentor, Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor), searches for her attacker and discovers the development of an army of clones; this is where the story loses focus. Eventually, he reteams with Anakin and Amidala to fight Count Dooku (Christopher Lee), a former Jedi knight who's turned evil and wants to take over the galaxy because ... who knows? He just does.

That's how indiscernible the plot and motivations are.

"Clones" samples almost as obviously as "Shrek," but not to the point of parody like "Scary Movie." Lucas does it often enough, though, that it makes me wonder whether he recognized the popularity of those movies and wanted a bit of the same.

Such pop culture amalgamations have become enormously successful because they give us what we already know; they make us feel comfortable because we're in on the joke. With "Phantom Menace," Lucas created a truly original world, and he was universally derided for it (even though the movie made $431 million).

He'll deny it, but he clearly listened to the complaints about "Phantom Menace" and adapted to please the audience for "Clones." Jar Jar Binks was annoying and we saw too much of him last time; here, he's been toned down and only appears in a few scenes.

### Distracting

Amidala's Kabuki makeup and Vegas showgirl-style headdresses were too distracting; here, her look is pretty and feminine.

Conspicuously, she's also lost the faux British accent she spoke with as queen; now, she giggles like a schoolgirl when she talks about a boy she had a crush on, with "dark curly hair and dreamy eyes."

But Portman and Christensen are so bland together, they're the Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake of a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away - good-looking and powerful, but torn by their individual ambitions. Their love scenes are so devoid of romantic sparks, you'd never know that their coupling in Episode III produces Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia.

The all-digital effects of "Clones" are just as ineffective; the backgrounds look like the cartoons that they are. A scene in which Amidala and Anakin frolic in a meadow has such a hyperreal pastoral quality, it looks like a commercial for a feminine hygiene product. The special effects from the original "Star Wars" may seem cheesy 25 years later, but they had a charm and a substance that's missing here.

The digital technology does allow for a miraculous scene involving a surprisingly agile Yoda; it's one of the few bright spots in an otherwise lifeless film. Other bright spots are unintentional — they're the result of laugh-out-loud bad dialogue.

A protracted battle scene toward the end between clones and droids is especially draggy; it's no fun watching mechanical soldiers zapping each other with lasers. A reddish dust that swirls around them makes it impossible to tell who's shooting whom; maybe that's Lucas' point, but it renders the scene inaccessible.

"Star Wars" geeks, however, will be happy to see a few key pieces of the saga fitting into place: the initial stirrings of anger that will turn Anakin into Darth Vader; the origin of bounty hunter Boba Fett; the first appearance of Luke Skywalker's Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru.

As Obi-Wan, McGregor truly comes into his own this time, practically channeling Alec Guinness in his demeanor and the cadence of his speech.

And, admittedly, the ritual itself holds some allure. It's still a rush to sit in a packed theater (equipped with THX, naturally) when that first blast of John Williams' fanfare sounds. Then you have to endure the rest of the movie.

"Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones," a 20th Century Fox release, runs 135 minutes. Two stars (out of four). ***AP***

# Affleck, Jackson and Quaid in new starrer

**VIEWFINDE**

*Nestor U. Torre*

IN "Changing Lanes," **Ben Affleck** plays a young attorney on the fast lane who appears to have everything. But all that is threatened when his law firm involves him in an ethically questionable case, and he's troubled by moral questions he's never had to face before.

His counterpart, portrayed by **Samuel L. Jackson**, is a recovering alcoholic whose wife is trying to take his children away from him. He's a tormented man who sees what's most important to him slipping away from his grasp.

A rush-hour accident turns these complete strangers into vicious adversaries. Their means of destroying one another may be different, but their goals are the same.

Meanwhile, in "The Rookie," **Dennis Quaid** gets to play a role that has given him some of his best notices to date.

Based on true story, the film is about a chemistry teacher and baseball coach at a small high school in Texas. Quaid plays the lead character, who was sidelined by a catastrophic shoulder injury that forced him to end his baseball career.

Ten years later, he makes an unusual deal with the high school team he's coaching: if the team bags the district championship, he will revive his baseball career by trying out for the major leagues.

The team does its part of the bargain, so the coach has to push through with his tryout, despite his fears. He nearly gets laughed off the field because he's much older than the other prospective rookies.

But he throws successive 98-mph fastballs that knock the socks off the competition, and he finally gets into the major leagues.

"The Rookie" clicks with viewers because it takes its losers (the coach and the hick high school team) and turns them into winners by making them rely on each other.

### Movies on HBO

THURSDAY, May 23 at 2:30 p.m., "Simon Sez." 12 midnight, "Sleepy Hollow."

Friday, May 24 at 8:15 a.m., "The Public Eye." 11:30 a.m., "Idle Hands." 3 p.m., "The Growing Pains Movie."

Saturday, May 25 at 9:30 a.m., "The Natural." 3:15 p.m., "It Could Happen to You." 5 p.m., "Mask."

Sunday, May 26 at 4 p.m., "Baby. 5:45 p.m., "The Hunt for Red October." 8 p.m., "Frankie and Johnny."

Monday, May 27 at 7:45 a.m., "Scent of A Woman." 10:30 a.m., "Picnic."

Tuesday, May 28 at 7:45 a.m., "The Natural." 8:30 p.m., "Charlie's Angels." 10 p.m., "Sex and the City," 52: "What's Sex Got to Do with It?" 10:30 p.m., "Sleepy Hollow." 12:15 a.m., "Outland."

Wednesday, May 29 at 9:45 a.m., "Cabin by the Lake." 11:30 a.m., "Songs in Ordinary Time." 5:45 p.m., "Sirens." 3:30 a.m., "Hefner: Unauthorized."

Thursday, May 30 at 5:30 p.m., "The Public Eye." 11 p.m., "It Could Happen to You."

Friday, May 31 at 2:30 p.m., "Delivering Milo."

### Boob-tube booboos

HOST: Our guest tonight is a beautiful woman who used to be—a man! She now lives abroad and she even has a husband!—How did you do it?

Guest: From the start, I told him.

Host: You mean, he knew that you had a sex change?

Guest: *Oo. Ako naman ang tao na* frankly!

(Well, frankly speaking—!)

* * *

Host: The Marcos millions are in the news again these days.

Cohost: That's good. Those millions are ours. We should make use of the media interest now to push for the recovery of the Marcos funds in Sisterland!

(Sis-where?!)

* * *

Host: How can we alleviate the plight of our poor people?

Guest: We must build many locust housing projects!

(That's fine for the locusts, but what about us?)

* * *

Host: As an expert wedding planner, maybe you can answer this question from our caller: When should the *despedida de soltera* be scheduled?

Guest: The *despedida de soltera* should be scheduled once a week before the weeding!

(Huh?)

* * *

Host: From your extensive experience in performing for all sorts of people, how can you tell when you're being effective?

Guest: Effective *lang kami depende sa* effect *namin sa* audience!

(Duh.)

# First-time director behind first Juday-Dingdong movie

**SHOWBIZ TIDBITS**

*Leah Salterio*

MANY people were surprised when **Judy Ann Santos** and **Dingdong Dantes** were paired in Viva Films' light romance-drama, "Akala Mo." Neither star considered it possible since they belong to rival networks and hadn't worked together except for a GMA 7 telemovie in 1999. It was also not just another show biz gimmick, especially since Judy Ann has been linked with **Piolo Pascual** and Dingdong with his soap opera costar **Tanya Garcia**.

Dingdong and Judy Ann believe it was fate that brought them together to work in a movie.

"I consider it a blessing to work with her," says the twentysomething Dingdong.

The filming of "Akala Mo" was beset with scheduling problems, which is expected when you have two stars as busy as Dingdong and Judy Ann who both have regular TV shows.

First-time director **Lyle Sacris,** 26, said there were only 18 actual shooting days, but it took them four months to finish the movie because the two stars were busy with other commitments.

Ironically, the scheduling problems worked to Dingdong's advantage because he came to know Judy Ann really well.

"We were able to spend a lot of time together during the shooting," he says. "She (Judy Ann) is really a nice person."

He says he is looking forward to their next movie, "Magkapatid," where he and Judy Ann play husband and wife. The Manila Film Festival entry topbills **Sharon Cuneta.**

Despite his many works on TV and in movies, Dingdong is not comfortable about being called the drama prince.

"I don't want to think about any title because that only means a big responsibility," he says. "I still have so much to prove. Right now, I just want to focus on my career and improve my acting."

"Akala Mo" was inspired by **Aiza Seguerra**'s latest hit of the same title.

Sacris notes that Dingdong and Judy Ann make a handsome pair onscreen. "I didn't have a hard time working with them because they really know how to act," the director says.

### Help save Mowelfund

EVEN if the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation Inc. or Mowelfund seems to be lacking in funds, it continues to provide the basic services to its members, especially the low-income sector of the movie industry, particularly production crew members.

Former President **Joseph Estrada** established Mowelfund with the help of some of his friends in the industry like bosom buddy **Fernando Poe Jr.** The foundation's foremost objective is to assist industry members in times of need.

But Mowelfund, with 4,000 members to date, needs a bigger budget to be able to help its needy members. Is it true that Mowelfund has not been receiving in full its 60 percent share of the proceeds of the annual Metro Manila Film Festival?

During its recent 28th anniversary, Mowelfund held its annual medical and dental clinic, where members and their immediate families got free consultation and treatment.

When budget was not a problem, Mowelfund even sent seven scholars to filmmaking courses abroad. Foundation director **Nick Deocampo** is a multi-awarded filmmaker and a former Mowelfund film scholar himself. The educational arm of Mowelfund which he heads has produced some of the country's talented filmmakers, like **Raymond Red**, whose "Anino" won the Palm d'Or in the 2000 Cannes Film Festival, **Yam Laranas** ("Balahibong Pusa," "Radyo"), **Lav Diaz** ("Batang Westside"), and cinematographers **Larry Manda** and **Neil Daza.**

Mowelfund's services fall under three programs—social welfare, educational and research. Under its social welfare program, Mowelfund members can avail themselves of medical and hospitalization benefits as well as financial aid in time of death. The latest recipients were National Artist **Levi Celerio**, singer **Diomedes Maturan** and journalist **Tony Mortel.**

Mowelfund also gave financial assistance to actor **Charlie Davao** and singer **Bobby Gonzales.**

Under the research program, Mowelfund advocates film preservation. Mass communication students, film majors, TV and film production assistants avail themselves of this service.

Mowelfund officers say that a member of good standing who pays his annual membership fee of P300 can avail himself or herself of hospitalization/surgical aid of P13,000 per year, maintenance medicine of P5,000 a year, hospitalization of P8,000 three times a year and death benefit of P35,000.

**DANTES. Refuses to be called drama prince.**

### Deaths

CONDOLENCE to Rage Band singer-keyboardist **Juan Miguel Salvador** and his sister **Vicky** (who does back-up for the band), whose mother died last week.

Our sympathy also goes to the family of comedian-TV host-director **Ariel Ureta** whose 17-year-old son, **Aldo**, passed away last week. Aldo, an Ateneo de Manila University student, died of brain tumor.

Condolence, too, to the two siblings—Eloisa and Eugene—of Philippine Star lifestyle writer **Eric Catipon**, who died of cardiac arrest last Thursday morning. Eric's remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz Chapels on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

**NEXT LEVEL performs in City Lite's party and concert.**

# City Lite mounts exciting summer gimmicks

**RADIO**

THE HITS just keep coming as Manila's Smooth Jazz Radio, City Lite 88.3, keeps summer packed with an exciting lineup of activities this month.

To start it off the merry month of May is the highly successful "City Lite Party Nite Out," 9 p.m. on May 22 at Streetlife in Makati. Providing the party tunes and grooves for the night is Next Level. This is not the first time the band has teamed up with the station and it has proven to be a winning combination.

On May 25, it's back to the beach once again when City Lite takes listeners to Puerto Galera. Next Level again joins the whole-day affair of fun and entertainment, with loads of games and fabulous prizes.

Closing the month of May is another installment of the "Jazz n Grooves" bar tour series on May 31. Lynn Sherman takes the stage once more at the Davao Ballroom of Westin Philippine Plaza, 10 p.m.

Wind down to a soulful night of music and relaxation as City Lite 88.3 guarantees an evening of pure, unadulterated classic and contemporary jazz.

### GMA on radio

"ANG Panawagan sa Pangulo," the radio program of Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, is heard every Monday at 7:30 a.m. on 738 khz on the AM band. It is aired by the Philippine Broadcast Service.

Last week, President Macapagal announced that the military has started an investigation into claims that the abductors of TV reporter Arlene de la Cruz were soldiers and not Abu Sayyaf members as what has been widely believed.

In "Ang Panawagan ng Pangulo," Ms Macapagal said a probe was really needed since it was De la Cruz who had declared it was soldiers who held her captive for almost three months.

Also in the program, Ms Macapagal clarified that contrary to report, majority of the people being linked to the Freedom Force were not associated of former Pres. Fidel Ramos.

She pointed out that a good number of Ramos people are serving in her administration, like former Rep. Eduardo Ermita, Paul Dominguez and Jesus Dureza.

On moves by the Social Security System to be strict with requirements for salary loans, Ms Macapagal said she had been informed there are a lot of borrowers who don't pay.

### Nationwide promo

MORE than P5 million in cash prizes will be given away to listeners from all over the country as Manila Broadcasting Company, the country's largest radio network, mounts the sequel to its successful nationwide radio promo launched last year, "Uno, Dos, Tres Jackpot Milyones."

The sequel will run until July 6, with 12 weekly draws scheduled every Sunday until July 7.

Four MBC listeners from Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will win P1 million each in the grand draw on July 21.

For the second prize, four winners will win P100,000 each, while consolation prizes worth P10,000 will also be given to 20 winners from all over the country.

To join, listeners should write on a piece of paper their name, address, telephone number, signature and attach a proof of purchase from participating sponsors (Zest-O Juice Drink, Colt 45, Summit Mineral Water, Axion, Pantene Shampoo and Conditioner, Tide and Safeguard Soap).

Place entry inside a white legal size envelope and indicate any of the three numbers of your choice (1, 2 or 3), the promo week and the proof of purchase on the upper right side of the envelope.

Mail entries to "Uno, Dos, Tres Jackpot Milyones Part 2," c/o Manila Broadcasting Company, 105 Esteban st., Legaspi Village, Makati City or to the nearest MBC station in your province.

There will be three boxes numbers 1, 2 and 3 in each MBC station. On each promo draw, three ping-pong balls numbered 1, 2, 3, representing the number of each box, will be picked.

The first ping-pong ball is for the third prize, the second is for the second prize and the third ball for the first prize.

MBC owns and operates the largest radio network in the country and in Asia. Its stations are dzRH, Love Radio, Yes-FM, Hot-FM, Aksyon Radyo and Radyo Natin.

# SM CINEMA

**SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999**

## NOW SHOWING

### SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | HARDBALL |
| 2 | JASON-X |
| 3 | STAR WARS |
| 4 | SPIDERMAN |
| 5 | STAR WARS |
| 6 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 7 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 8 | SPIDERMAN |

### SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS |
| 2 | HARDBALL |
| 3 | STAR WARS |
| 4 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 5 | STAR WARS |
| 6 | FRUIT IS SWELLING |
| 7 | SPIDERMAN |
| 8 | JASON-X |
| 9 | SPIDERMAN |
| 10 | SANA TOTOO NA |

### SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | JASON-X |
| 2 | STAR WARS |
| 3 | 7 DAYS TO LIVE |
| 4 | SPIDERMAN |
| 5 | STAR WARS |
| 6 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 7 | STAR WARS |
| 8 | SPIDERMAN |
| 9 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 10 | FRUIT IS SWELLING |
| 11 | SCORPION KING |
| 12 | STAR WARS |

### SM CITY MANILA
5239240

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SCORPION KING |
| 2 | STAR WARS |
| 3 | JASON-X |
| 4 | STAR WARS |
| 5 | SPIDERMAN |
| 6 | STAR WARS |
| 7 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 8 | FRUIT IS SWELLING |
| 9 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 10 | HARDBALL |
| 11 | SPIDERMAN |
| 12 | STAR WARS |

### SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS |
| 2 | SPIDERMAN |
| 3 | STAR WARS |
| 4 | STAR WARS |
| 5 | HARDBALL |
| 6 | SCORPION KING |
| 7 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 8 | JASON-X |
| 9 | SPIDERMAN |
| 10 | STAR WARS |
| 11 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 12 | FRUIT IS SWELLING |

### SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9285452

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS |
| 2 | SPIDERMAN |
| 3 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 4 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 5 | JASON-X |
| 6 | STAR WARS |
| 7 | STAR WARS |
| 8 | SPIDERMAN |
| 9 | CLOSED |
| 10 | CLOSED |
| 11 | CLOSED |
| 12 | CLOSED |

### SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS |
| 2 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 3 | STAR WARS |
| 4 | SPIDERMAN |
| 5 | JASON-X |
| 6 | HARDBALL |
| 7 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 8 | STAR WARS |
| 9 | SPIDERMAN |
| 10 | FRUIT IS SWELLING |

### SM CITY CEBU
2313876

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS |
| 2 | SPIDERMAN |
| 3 | ROLLERBALL |
| 4 | GOOD ADVICE |
| 5 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 6 | BUKANG BIBIG |
| 7 | SPIDERMAN |
| 8 | STAR WARS |

### SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DEVIL'S MASK |
| 2 | CLOSED |
| 3 | SPIDERMAN |
| 4 | STAR WARS |
| 5 | ROLLERBALL |
| 6 | STAR WARS |
| 7 | CLOSED |
| 8 | HARDBALL |

### SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS |
| 2 | STAR WARS |
| 3 | ROLLERBALL |
| 4 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 5 | HARDBALL |
| 6 | SPIDERMAN |

### SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8204975

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIDERMAN |
| 2 | STAR WARS |
| 3 | STAR WARS |
| 4 | VIDEOKE KING |

### SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| 2 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| 3 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |

### SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS |
| 2 | STAR WARS |
| 3 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 4 | SPIDERMAN |

### SM CITY DAVAO
2976098

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS |
| 2 | ROLLERBALL |
| 3 | BLADE 2 |
| 4 | BUKANG BIBIG |
| 5 | STAR WARS |
| 6 | SPIDERMAN |

### SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

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*4 NEW*
*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
*VISION & SOUND*

### SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

*SOON TO OPEN!*
*4 NEW*
*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
*VISION & SOUND*

### THE PODIUM
1a ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 |
| 2 | STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 |

W/ LATE NIGHT SCREENING ON WEEKENDS 6389781-85

**Movies are subject to change without prior notice**

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*the all-digital sound*

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COLUMBIA PICTURES

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# MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

# MOVIE GUIDE

## NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

### Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DDS) | STAR WARS |
| 2 (SDDS) | STAR WARS |
| 3 (DTS) | STAR WARS |
| 4 GOLD (DTS) | STAR WARS |
| 5 GOLD (DOLBY) | STAR WARS |
| 6 GOLD (SDDS) | SPIDERMAN |
| 7 GOLD (DOLBY) | SPIDERMAN |
| 8 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 9 | HARDBALL |
| 10 | STAR WARS |

### Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | 7 DAYS TO LIVE |
| 3 (DTS) | SPIDERMAN |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 (DTS) | STAR WARS |
| Golden Pearl THX | |

### Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 2 | STAR WARS |
| 3 | SPIDERMAN |

### starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIDERMAN |
| 2 | HARDBALL |
| 3 | FRUIT IS SWELLING |
| 4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | STAR WARS |
| 5 | SANA TOTOO NA |

### METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 2 | SPIDERMAN |
| 3 | STAR WARS |
| 4 | SPIDERMAN |
| 5 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 6 | |
| 7 | |
| 8 | |

### PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS |

### Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 2 | SHOWTIME |

### FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | HAPDI NG TAG INIT |
| 3 | SPIDERMAN |

### Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | |
| A | STAR WARS |

### Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIDERMAN |
| 2 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 3 | STAR WARS |
| 4 | |

## GOTESCO CINEMA

### Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | STAR WARS |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | JASON-X |
| 5 | FRUIT IS SWELLING |
| 6 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 7 (DTS) | STAR WARS |
| 8 (SDDS) | STAR WARS |
| 9 (DOLBY) | SPIDERMAN |

### Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | SANA TOTOO NA |

### Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 2 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 3 | FRUIT IS SWELLING |
| 4 (SDDS) | STAR WARS |
| 5 | STAR WARS |
| 6 (DOLBY) | SPIDERMAN |
| 7 (DTS) | STAR WARS |
| 8 | BUKANG BIBIG |
| 9 | JASON-X |

### Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DTS) | RESERVE |
| 2 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | FRUIT IS SWELLING |
| 5 (SDDS) | SPIDERMAN |
| 6 | STAR WARS |
| 7 (DOLBY) | STAR WARS |
| 8 | VIDEOKE KING |

### Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS |
| 2 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 3 (DTS) | SPIDERMAN |
| 4 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 5 (SDDS) | STAR WARS |

### Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS |

### Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SANA TOTOO NA |

### Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

| | |
|---|---|
| Dilson | SANA TOTOO NA |
| Lords | HAPLOS |
| Jennet | |

### MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIDERMAN |
| 2 | STAR WARS |
| 3 | SANA TOTOO NA |

### Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 | |

### Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | STAR WARS |
| 2 | RESERVE |
| 3 | RESERVE |
| 4 | SPIDERMAN |
| 5 | SANA TOTOO NA |

### New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1
2
3
4
5
6

### FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1
2

### Berma
tel 879.2029

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIDERMAN |
| 2 | STAR WARS |

### CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1
2

## CINEMA 2000

### Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIDERMAN |
| 2 | STAR WARS |
| 3 (DTS) | STAR WARS |

### Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIDERMAN |
| 2 (DTS) | STAR WARS |
| 3 (DOLBY) | STAR WARS |
| 4 | JASON-X |

### Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIDERMAN |
| 2 (DOLBY) | STAR WARS |
| 3 (DTS) | STAR WARS |
| 4 | JASON-X |

### Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 2 | SPIDERMAN |
| 3 | SOON TO OPEN |
| 4 | SOON TO OPEN |

### Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 2 | SPIDERMAN |
| 3 (DOLBY) | STAR WARS |
| 4 (DTS) | STAR WARS |

### Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (SDDS) | SPIDERMAN |
| 2 | BOYFRIEND KONG PARI |
| 3 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 4 (DTS) | SYOTA NG BAYAN |

### Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY) | STAR WARS |
| 2 | STAR WARS |
| 3 (DTS) | SPIDERMAN |
| 4 | JASON-X |
| 5 | 7 DAYS TO LIVE |

### Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIDERMAN |
| 2 | STAR WARS |
| 3 | VIDEOKE KING |

### Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS |
| 2 | SPIDERMAN |
| 3 | JASON-X |

### Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BLADE 2 |
| 2 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 3 | IKA-7 GLORYA |

### Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | JASON-X |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |

### Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DTS) | STAR WARS |
| 2 (DTS) | SPIDERMAN |

### Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1

### Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | BUKANG BIBIG |
| 2 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 3 | SPIDERMAN |

### Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS |
| 2 | CROSSROAD |
| 3 | STAR WARS |
| 4 | ROLLERBALL |

### Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 (DOLBY EX) | STAR WARS |
| 2 | SPIDERMAN |
| 3 (DTS) | STAR WARS |
| 4 | ROLLER BALL |

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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THX
CMG INTERNATIONAL

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

FESTIVAL
CINEMA
FILINVEST,
ALABANG
850-3571 - 72

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# MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls

## NOW SHOWING

### Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 THX | STAR WARS 2 |
| 2 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 3 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 4 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 5 | SPIDERMAN |
| 6 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 7 | SPIDERMAN |
| 8 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 9 | JASON-X |
| 10 | VIDEOKE KING |

### Ermita
536 -7809- 12

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 2 | SPIDERMAN |
| 3 | JASON-X |
| 4 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 5 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 6 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 7 | STAR WARS 2 |

### Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8780

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | JASON-X |
| 2 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 3 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 4 | SPIDERMAN |
| 5 | SPIDERMAN |
| 6 | HARDBALL |
| 7 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 8 | SANA TOTOO NA |

### Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | SPIDERMAN |
| 2 | SPIDERMAN |
| 3 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 4 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 5 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 6 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 7 | HARD BALL |
| 8 | JASON-X |

### Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 2 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 3 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| 4 | SPIDERMAN |
| 5 | VIDEOKE KING |
| 6 | HARDBALL |

### Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 2 | ROLLER BALL |
| 3 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 4 | BLADE 2 |
| 5 | SPIDERMAN |
| 6 | RIPPER |

### Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 2 | HARDBALL |
| 3 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 4 | ROLLER BALL |
| 5 | SPIDERMAN |
| 6 | VIDEOKE KING |

### Star Mills-
San Fernando, Pamp 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | ROLLER BALL |
| 2 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 3 | STAR WARS 2 |
| 4 | SPIDERMAN |
| 5 | |
| 6 | STAR WARS 2 |

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Movieworld
Galleria

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email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

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# Cameron Diaz film available on video

WITH the success of "Charlie's Angels" at the tills, Cameron Diaz has become one of Hollywood's biggest stars and world's most popular actresses.

She shines even brighter in an entirely different role in the romantic drama, "The Invisible Circus." Costarring Jordana Brewster and Christopher Eccleston, the film is available on original VHS and VCD copies through C-Interactive Digital Entertainment "The Video to C" and Wave 89.1.

In "The Invisible Circus," Diaz plays Phoebe, who is unhappy at 18. When she was about 10, her father died of leukemia; her older sister Faith became a political radical, left for Europe with her boyfriend Wolf and committed suicide a year later.

With romantic ideas about her father and sister, Phoebe decides to trace Faith's steps, find Wolf and learn what really happened. What she discovers is something she never expected and imagined before.

"The Invisible Circus" is produced by New Line Cinema.

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## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| | |
|---|---|
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| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 | VIDEOKE KING |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | SANA TOTOO NA |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | STAR WARS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | SPIDERMAN |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | STAR WARS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | FRUIT IS SWELLING |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY) | JASON-X |
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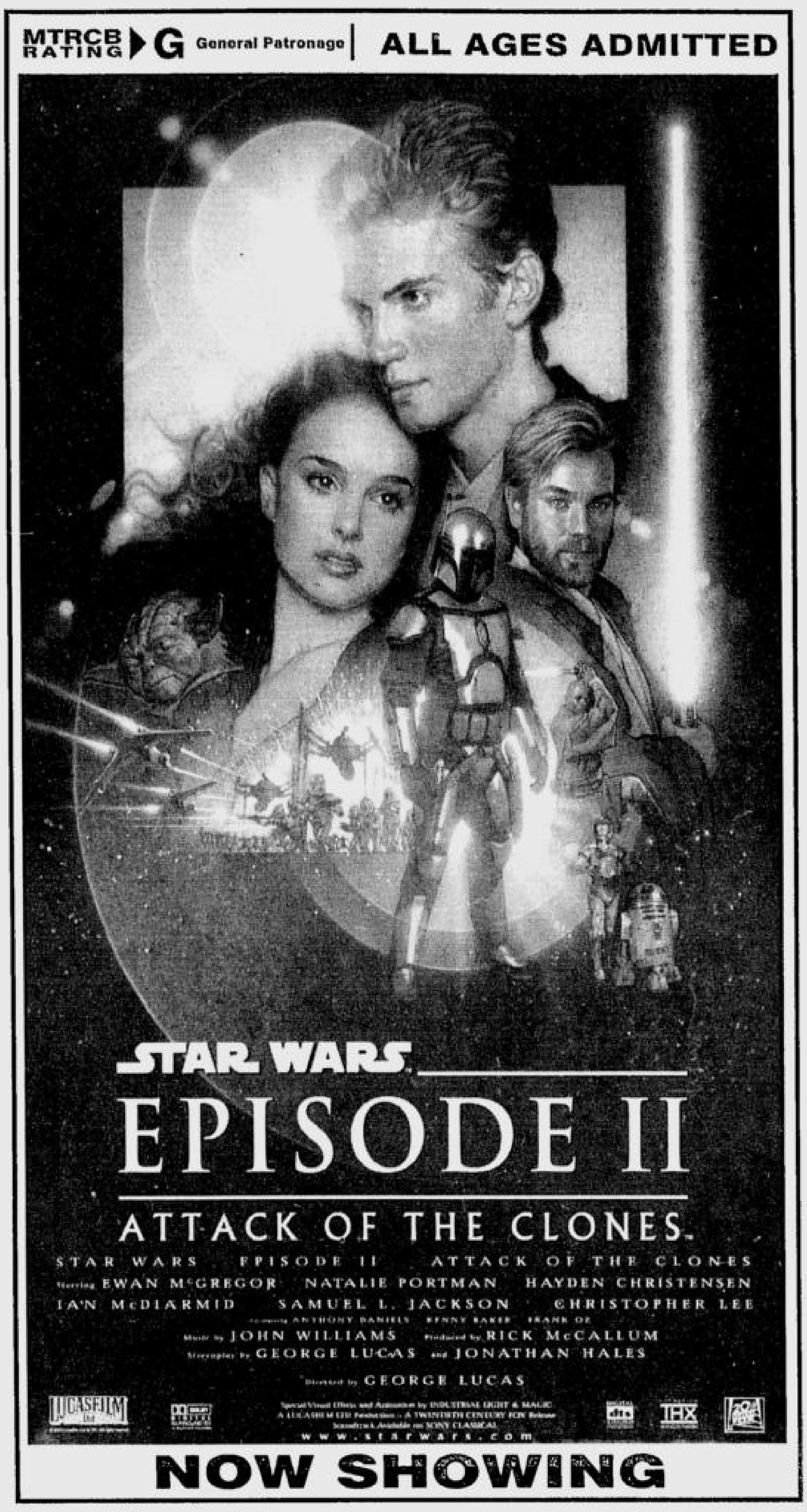
| CINEMA-2 | THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE |
| CINEMA-4 | ALAMID |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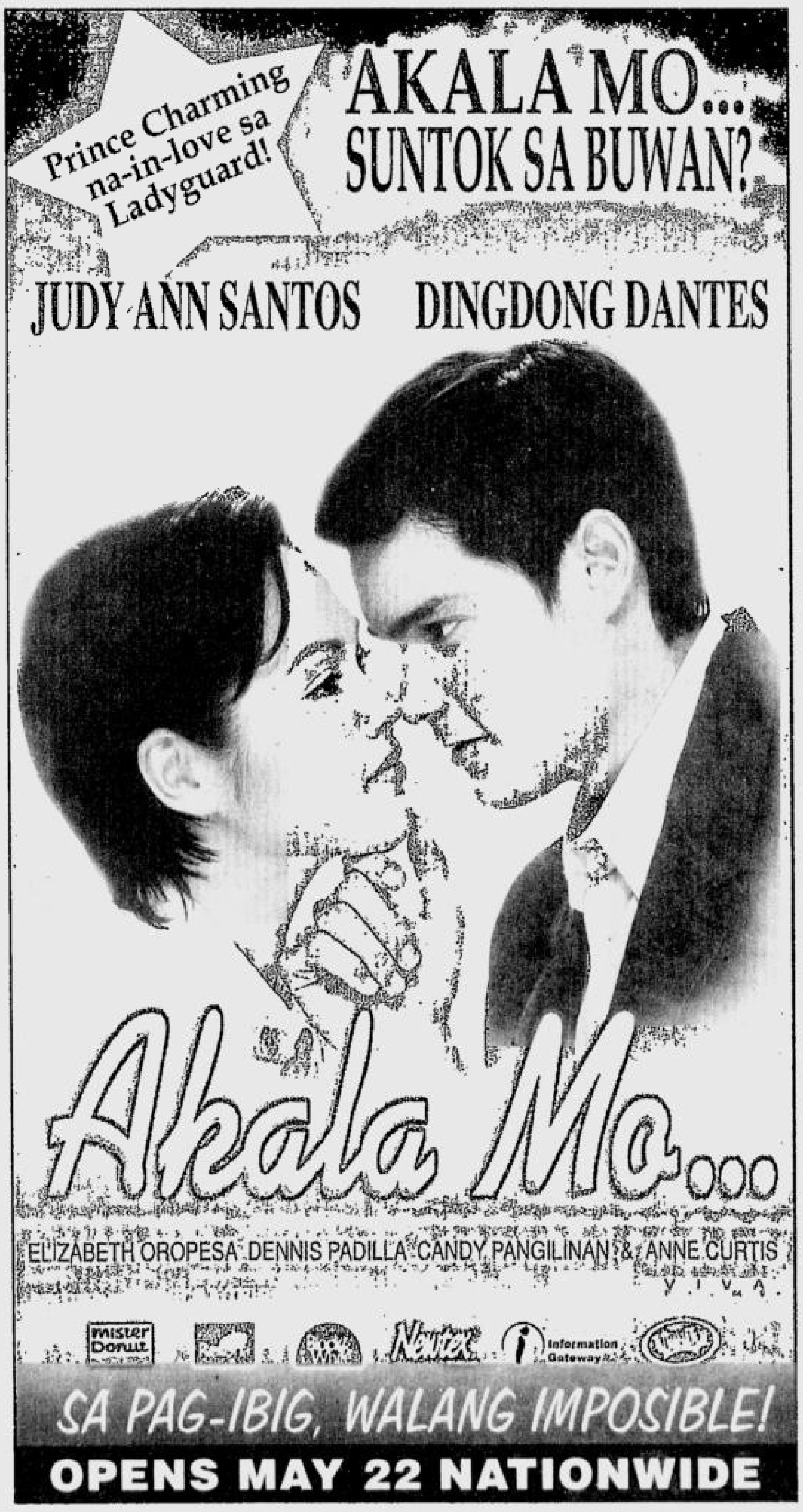
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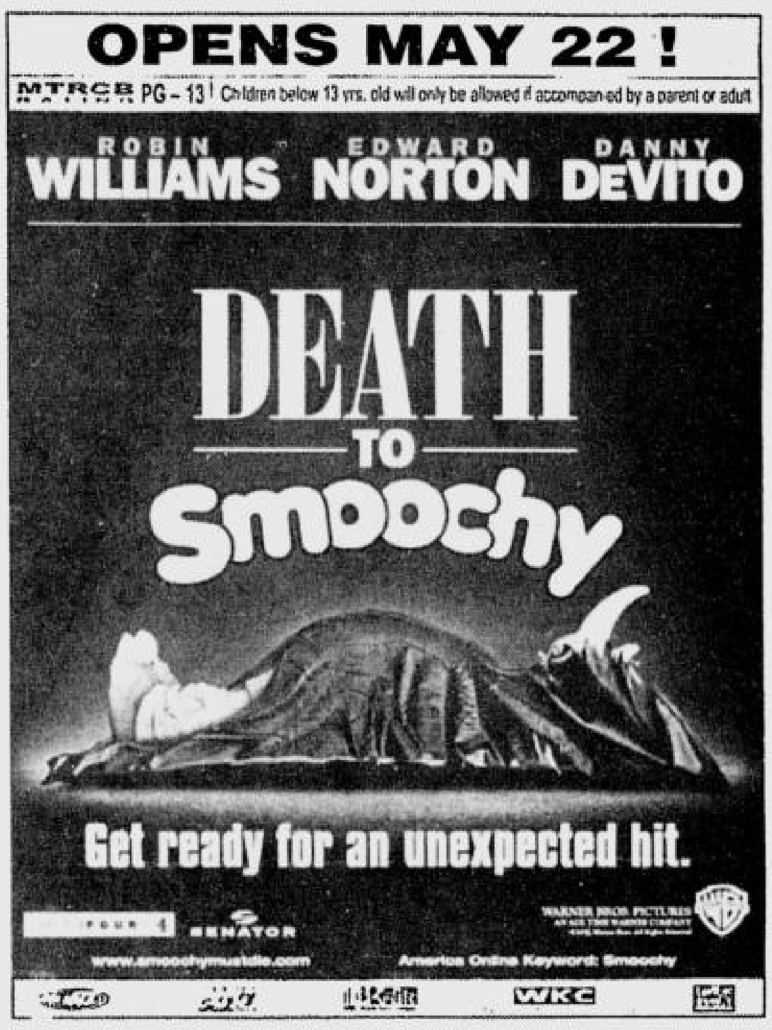
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# Pirated 'Spider-Man' VCDs a hit in Baguio

**By Delmar Cariño**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

SELLERS of pirated video compact discs (VCDs) in Baguio City are also riding high on the "Spider-Man" web of success at the box office.

Since last week, itinerant vendors and their rivals in department stores here have enjoyed brisk sales of the movie's pirated version imported from as far as Malaysia.

The comic book-inspired movie, starring Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst, opened in Manila on May 4. The first wave of the movie's pirated VCDs hit the streets in Baguio the day after, with each copy selling at P70 to P90.

Since then, demand for "Spider-Man" pirated VCDs has increased and traders continue to order more supply from their Manila connections.

But Baguio theater owners are not amused. The movie, produced by Columbia Pictures, will have its debut in local theaters starting May 20.

Already saddled by high rates of amusement taxes, theater owners complain about declining attendance. They said this could be traced to the time when pirated VCDs and CDs became lucrative business here.

Joy Yu, owner of the four cinemas at the Center Mall in Baguio blame the viewers' decline on pirated VCDs.

"We are losing moviegoers by at least 40 percent," Yu said. "We find it hard paying the 30 percent amusement tax and we can't just raise ticket prices."

She added, "Now, there are pirated VCDs that really compete with us and kill our business."

Movie tickets at Center Mall are pegged at P35 and P40 for the lower and upper boxes, respectively. The four cinemas have a sitting capacity of 1,824 or 456 patrons each.

Today, only Center Mall and five other cinema houses are operating in Baguio. Three theaters have closed to give way to *wagwagan* (bargain houses).

Yu said theaters are losing because the pirated VCDs are priced low and released simultaneously with the movie's theater run or even ahead in the case of provincial theaters.

Rafael Magamang, a Muslim trader based in Baguio, said a middleman usually arrives in the city to show a list of upcoming potential blockbuster movies and gets orders.

He said hundreds of pirated CDs and VCDs are brought to Baguio, with each seller ordering an average of 300 to 500 copies that are usually sold out in two weeks.

"We buy each copy at P40 and sell it at P70 for every VCD and P60 for each CD," he said.

Magamang said just like the movie "Titanic," "Spider-Man" pirated VCDs are also a hit, mostly among students. He noted foreign films outdo local productions. He said only the local movie "Got To Believe," showed strong demand, particularly after the death of Rico Yan, who starred opposite Claudine Barreto.

Magamang said the other pirated movies that made money were "Scorpion King," "The Mummy Returns," "Harry Potter" and "Lord of the Rings."

RICO
YAN
THE COMMEMORATIVE MAGAZINE

# Commemorative magazine on Rico

PUBLISHED by his family and friends barely a month after his death, the Rico Yan commemorative magazine was recently launched to the public.

The magazine features inspirational articles written by Rico, his close friends, various media and political personalities and family friends.

Also included in the magazine are transcriptions of the homily of Fr. Tito Caluag during the burial Mass and the family's response as delivered by Teresita Yan during the Mass held last April 4.

The magazine also features never-before-seen photos of Rico who was one of tinseltown's most photogenic celebrities. The gallery comprises a collector's publication as a fitting tribute to his short-lived life and career.

Among the sponsors who supported the worthwhile project are Talk n' Text and Japan Silver Village.

The magazine is available at Bufini, CV magazine and at the RYYF Makati office, with tel. nos. 895-3975/ 896-4340.

Part of the proceeds of the sale of the magazine will go to the projects and programs of the Rico Yan Youth Foundation.

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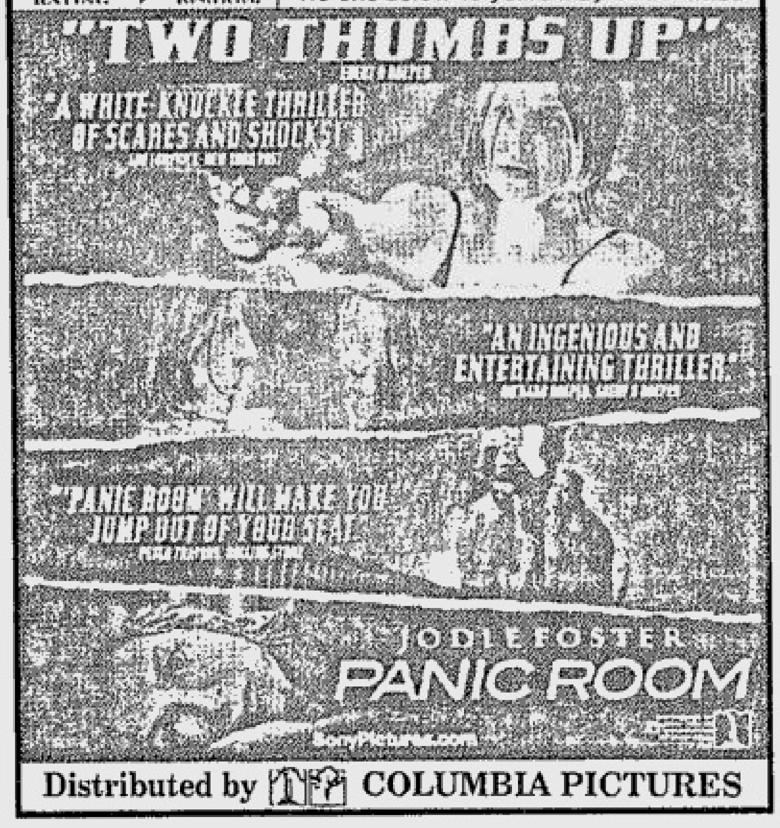
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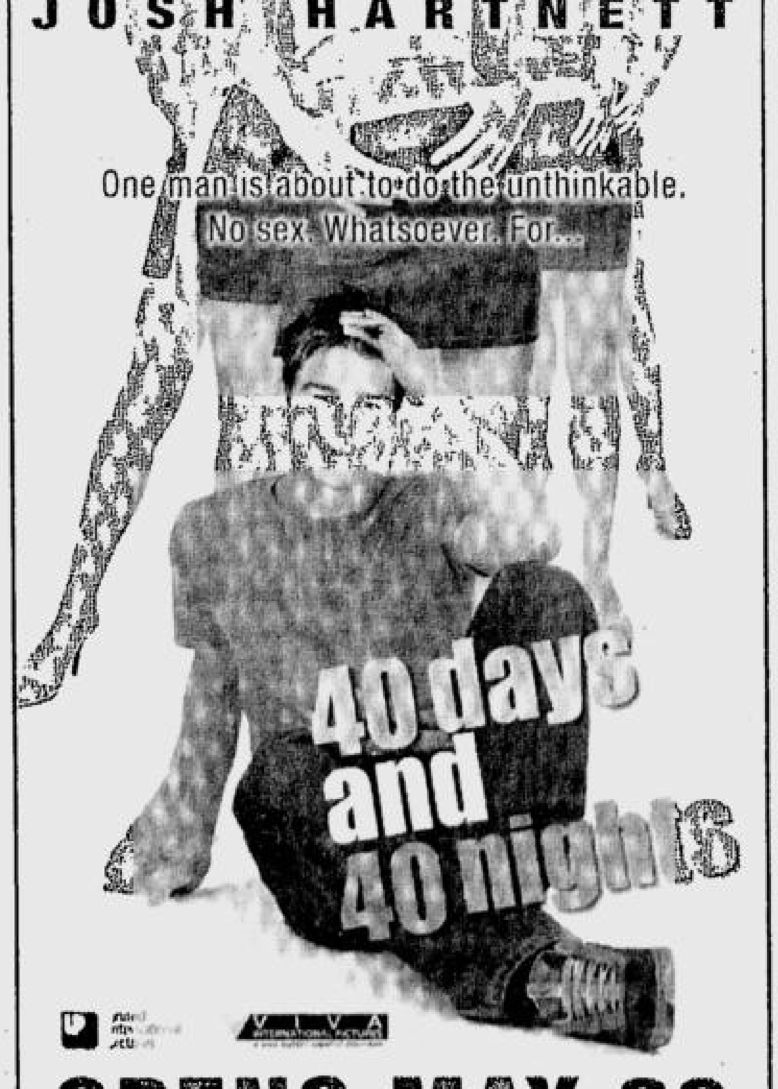
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| STAR WARS - GP<br>12:20, 3:15, 6:10, 9:05 | SPIDERMAN - GP<br>11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 | STAR WARS - GP<br>11:45, 2:40, 5:35, 8:30 |

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| 1 SPIDERMAN | 1 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 | 4 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 | 1 SPIDERMAN | THX 1 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 |
| 2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 | 2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 | 5 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 | 2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 | 2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 |
| 3 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 | THX 3 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2<br>12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 6 SPIDERMAN | 3 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 | 3 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 |
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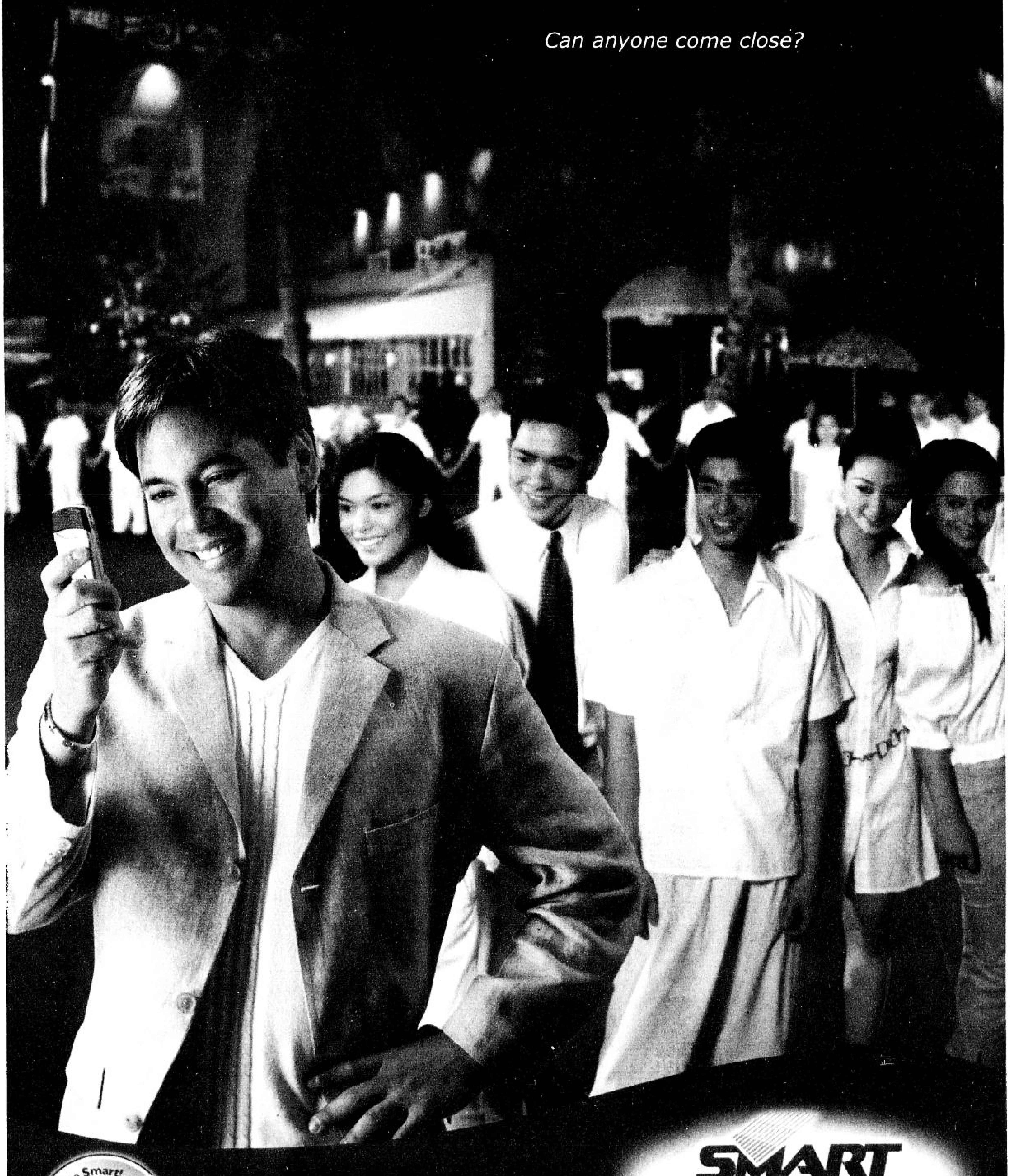

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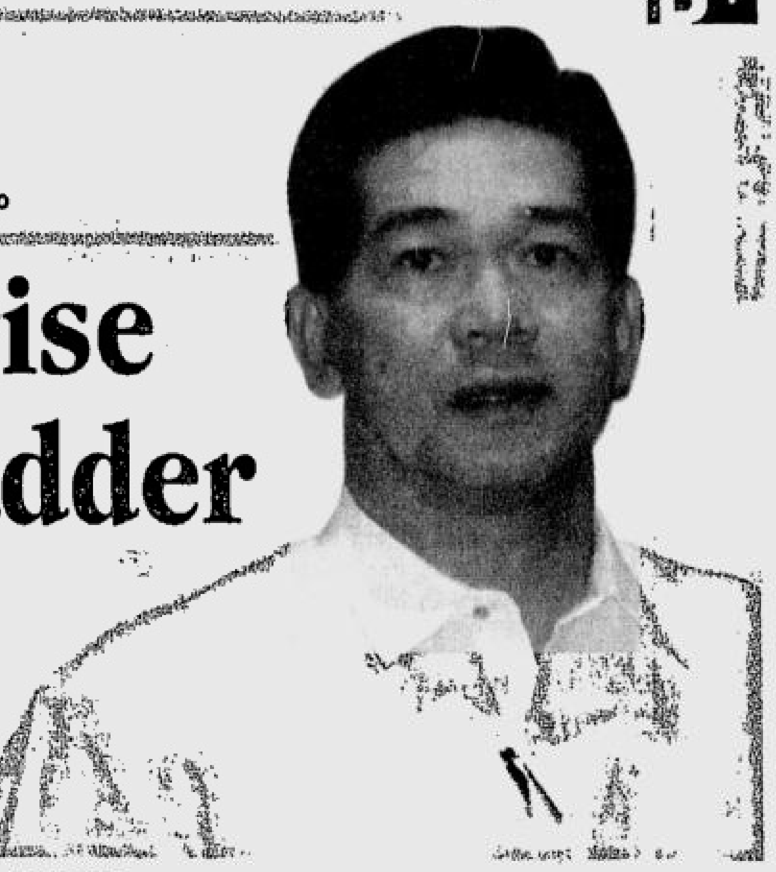
# Dreams pushed this CEO to rise to the top of the corporate ladder



SERRANO

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE INGREDIENTS for the success of a person vary. For this executive, it has been pursuing one dream after another with passion.

For Romerico S. Serrano, president of Philippine Fuji Xerox, every achievement starts with a dream, followed by sheer hard work. He believes that nothing is impossible for someone who has set his or her mind on something and then puts passion toward attaining it.

While he was still in grade school, Serrano had dreamed of becoming a national athlete. He became one.

For college, he wanted to go to an exclusive for boys school and did despite the fact his parents could not afford the tuition.

When he started his career at the bottom of the corporate hierarchy, he dreamed of becoming a company president. He achieved the post in three firms.

### FIRST JOB

The president and CEO of Fuji Xerox Phils. Inc. started his career as a collector for Kodak Philippines Ltd. in 1973. He was given the glamorized title "credit representative," but his work was collecting the payment of customers.

Tasked to cover the Makati area, he

DREAMS/ B6

# Blacks find jobs are hard to find during touch times

CHICAGO—When the US economy slumped last year, gas station manager Angela Thomas knew the handwriting was on the wall and started sending out resumés.

She was soon laid off and joined legions of Americans in service industries from airlines to the retail trade confronted with unemployment in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

For African-Americans such as Thomas, however, the US economic slump felt more like a crash.

Black unemployment shot up to 11.2 percent this April, nearly double the rate for whites and up half a perrentage point in one month. The jobless rate for Hispanics was 7.9 percent in April, up from 7.3 percent in March.

During the economic boom of the 1990s, economists said a rising economic tide would lift all boats, and for many it did.

But the reverse is happening during tough economic times.

While the white unemployment rate has moved from a low of 3.4 percent in October 2000 to 5.3 percent in April 2002, a 1.9-percentage point increase, the rate for blacks has risen faster, surging 3.9 percentage points from a low of 7.3 percent in September 2000. The rate is even worse for young blacks under 20 years old, 35.4 percent in April, the highest in five years. That compares with 22.3 percent in April 2000.

And the official rate only takes into account those people looking for a job. Experts believe it understates the true rate of joblessness because many people give up trying after a while.

Thomas, 38, has sent out hundreds of resumés and gone on countless interviews since September with no luck.

"I was hoping that being in retail management for almost 20 years I would get calls from the resumés I'd sent out," she said. "I thought that I'd give it one month to turn around and now it's been over six months."

Experts said the reasons for the high unemployment rate among African-Americans are complex. They range from the lingering racial discrimination to lower education and a high concentration of blacks in service industries hit hard by Sept. 11 such as travel and retailing.

"Legacies of discrimination and the impact of lower levels of education suggest that there is an economic constant for the African American unemployment rate to be twice that of whites," said Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League, the nation's largest community-based advocacy group for blacks.

Another factor may be that most blacks have missed the economic boom in the sprawling suburbs around major cities.

Most blacks live in inner cities or in rural areas where economies are weakest, Price said.

If history is any guide, the black unemployment rate may get worse before it gets better.

In the last recession which began in the third quarter of 1990 and lasted through the first quarter of 1991, the African American unemployment rate kept on rising for well over a year after economic recovery had begun. The unemployment rate for African Americans during that recession reached 12.5 percent. For whites it peaked at 6 percent.

During the recession of the early 1980s, black unemployment reached an all-time high of 21.2 percent in January 1983, two months after the recession ended. The historical high for whites was just 9.7 percent in December 1982.

It was not until the boom years of the 1990s that black unemployment started to come down substantially.

"The economic expansion started in about 1993 and it took time to pull more and more people into jobs," said Margaret Sims, vice president for research at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a think tank specializing in issues of concern to minorities. "By the time you got to 1997, the growth rate of the economy hit a super-fast level and began to move above 3 percent." *Reuters*

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*Dr. Jose Albert C. Reyes III*
*President, Philippine Society for the Study of the Aging Male Foundation, Inc. (PhiSSAM)*
*Urologic Surgeon, St. Luke's Medical Center,*

## SEX AROUND THE WORLD:
### The Pfizer Global Study on Sexual Attitudes and Behaviors

In this article, we will feature some significant findings of the Pfizer Global Study. This is the first contemporaneous, global survey to study behaviors, attitudes, beliefs and satisfaction with relationships among more than 26,000 men and women aged 40 to 80. The Pfizer Global Study was conducted via a mix of in-person, mail and telephone interviews in 29 countries, including the Philippines. Some highlights:

### 1. IS SEXUAL HEALTH IMPORTANT TO PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD?

Yes, because sexual health impacts overall health. Poor sexual function is highly associated with negative physical and emotional experiences in relationships, low general happiness and an overall poor quality of life.

The survey revealed that physical and emotional satisfaction in a relationship is higher among those who report that they are healthier. Specifically, the survey found that nearly 70 percent of those who described their health as "excellent" also reported that their physical and emotional relationship with their partner was very/extremely pleasurable in the past year.

### 2. DO FILIPINOS VALUE SEX?

The Philippines ranks third among the Asian countries that value sex.

Almost 90 percent of people in Korea said that sex was very, extremely or moderately important in their overall life compared to 71 percent in the Philippines. Around the world, more than 80 percent of men and 60 percent of women aged 40 to 80 say sex is an important part of their overall lives.

### 3. HOW COMMON IS SEXUAL ACTIVITY AMONG OLDER FILIPINOS?

Fifty percent of respondents in the Philippines reported that they had sex one to six times per week.

In the rest of the world, the survey found that 57 percent of men and 51 percent of women who have had sex in the past year still have sex regularly - at least one to six times per week. The country with the highest rate is Italy, where more than 70 percent of respondents reported that they had sex one to six times per week. More people from Belgium and Spain report having sex at least once per day compared with other nations surveyed.

### 4. ARE SEXUAL PROBLEMS BEING DIAGNOSED AND TREATED WELL?

Many conditions that may inhibit intimacy like erectile dysfunction often go untreated because people are too embarrassed to speak with their doctor. A majority of men do not seek medical help for erection problems even though these problems are frequently associated with other treatable health conditions, including hypertension, diabetes, depression and cardiovascular disease. Men with erection problems report depression more frequently than men without these problems.

Approximately 30 percent of those surveyed have either not seen a doctor for over a year or don't remember when they last saw one. This figure is also representative of the profile of the typical Filipino surveyed. However, even when respondents did have a medical check-up, less than one in ten report being asked about sexual difficulties in the past three years compared to 12 percent in the Philippines.

### 5. WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE PROBLEMS WITH SEXUAL HEALTH?

Physicians and patients must be prepared to discuss sexual difficulties because they can be red flags for underlying and potentially life-threatening conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and high cholesterol. In addition, sexual problems can lead to other issues such as reduced self-esteem and intimacy avoidance that can have a very real impact on overall quality of life for an individual and his partner.

It is important for men who are experiencing sexual problems like Erectile Dysfunction (ED) to see their doctor. ED is treatable. Talk to your doctor about the sexual health problems you are experiencing and he/she would be able to help.

You owe it to yourself and your spouse, because good sexual health favourably impacts one's overall health. And the world agrees.

**We'd like to hear from you!**

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1. Is maintaining or improving your sexual health important to you? Y for Yes or N for No.
2. Do you agree that good sexual health favourably impacts one's overall health? Y or N

To answer, text **PFI** (space), **ED** (space), the letters corresponding to your answers to both questions, example: **YY** (space), your gender, example: **M** (space). You may also opt to type your age and name, example: **40** (space), **Paul Reyes.**

Example:
**PFI ED YY M 40 Paul Reyes.**

***Congratulations to all the lucky texters who responded to last week's questions. They will receive special Pfizer gift packs. This week's texters will also get a chance to win Pfizer Male Kits.***

Should you have questions about E.D. or comments regarding this column, please write to: Pfizer mEDex (**mEDex@Pfizer.com**)

*Pfizer, Inc. 23/F Ayala Life-FGU Center 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines*

# US firm chooses RP to launch new milk brand

A MAJOR American dairy company, Hester Foods Inc., has given the Philippines a needed vote of confidence by choosing the local market for the Asian launch of its products, citing among others the stabilizing peso and the optimistic economic climate as reasons for its decision to come in.

"We are confident that the time is right for American products in the Philippines," said Hester Foods CEO and president Shawn Hester. "The Philippines is a logical launch pad for American companies interested in bringing the best of American dairy products to Asia."

The California-based company has actually brought in its new line of milk products under the brand HesterFARM, which is currently arriving on grocery shelves throughout the country.

Company officials believe HesterFARM milk will generate excitement in the local market because they are the first of an entirely new product category of low-lactose, calcium-fortified and vitamin-fortified milk drinks being introduced to Philippine consumers.

Henry Fortuna, country manager for Hester Foods, said HesterFARM is a much needed alternative milk in the country because 90 percent of Filipinos suffer from varying degrees of lactose intolerance (documented in a 27-year-long study conducted by Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland).

Symptoms of lactose intolerance range from mild to miserable, and occur after consuming dairy products because of a genetically inherited inability to break down the lactose in milk. Thus, HesterFARM is touted as "tummy friendly" because it offers the benefits of traditional milk without the frequently miserable intestinal side effects of traditional milk.

"HesterFARM milk is not only for children. Mom, dad and the grandparents can drink it too," Hester said. "We designed these products specifically to meet the needs of Filipinos."

Distributed locally by Quantum Foods Inc., HesterFARM milk are premium products but are priced affordably at popular levels.

# Change management important in convenience store industry

THE SECRET to any successful business enterprise is its ability to effect change in a highly competitive environment, said Chung Jen Hsu, chief executive officer of President Chain Store Corp., the 7-Eleven licensee in Taiwan. Apart from operating more than 2,000 convenience stores and other related businesses, President Chain also holds a majority stake at Philippine Seven Corp., the local licensee of the 7-Eleven chain.

Hsu was in the country recently to kick off Philippine Seven's 20th year anniversary activities. In a speech before local 7-Eleven store managers, Hsu said that it was President Chain's ability to detect and manage change, which made it Taiwan's largest retail chain and the third largest 7-Eleven chain in the world. It started the convenience store business in Taiwan in 1978 and acquired the 7-Eleven license in 1980.

Hsu said, "At the time, the economic situation was not very adequate for the convenience store industry. We did not have much experience in managing convenience stores. Therefore, we incurred losses seven years in a row! It was only in 1987 that Taiwan 7-Eleven became profitable . . . Taiwan 7-Eleven has learned the hard way how to be vigilant, how to be agile, and always change as quickly as possible to suit customers' needs. Why is flexibility so important? Because it is a way to beat competition."

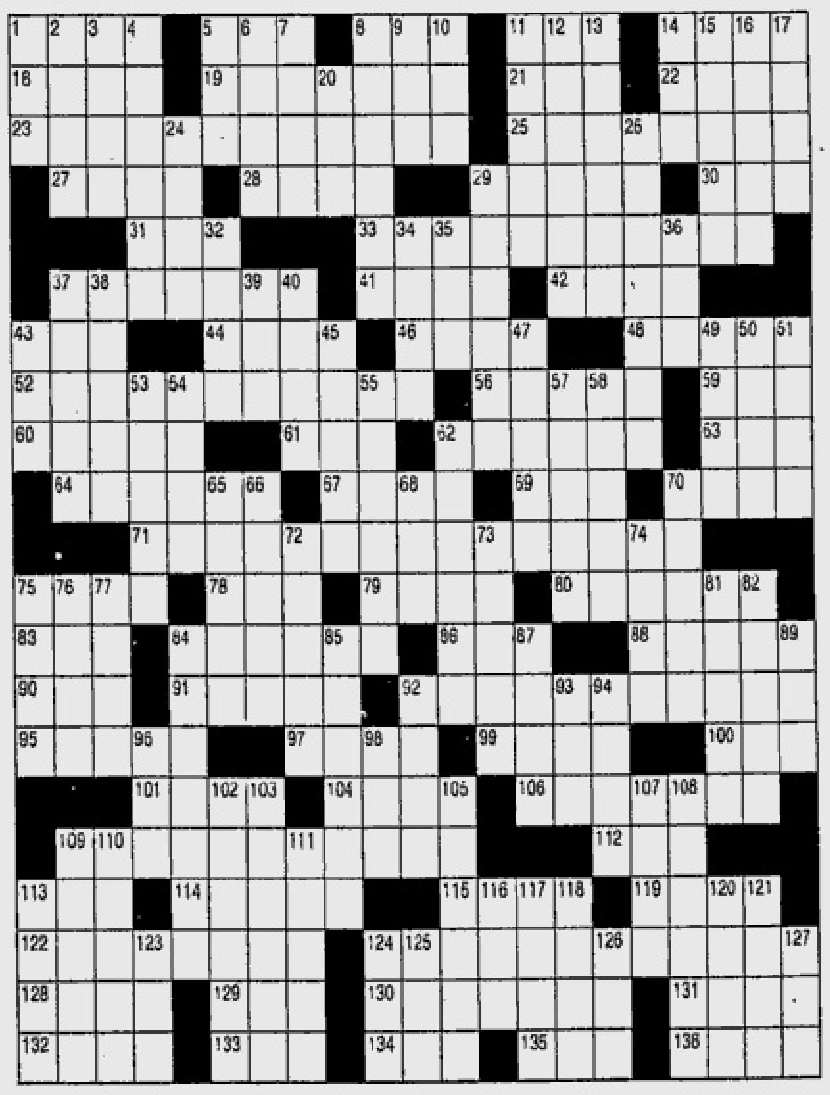
Hsu said that Philippine Seven is actually luckier than Taiwan 7-Eleven because, "it has been a successful company from the beginning, thanks to the very wise guidance of Mr. Vicente Paterno." However, Hsu observed that because of Philippine Seven's steady growth in the past, it is finding it hard to cope with the changing environment.

If Philippine Seven is to move forward, Hsu said 7-Eleven store managers must act like entrepreneurs able to predict change and take advantage of it.

He said, "Everything starts and ends inside the store. The store is so important! I believe change should originate inside the store, with the support of the headquarters. In order to change successfully, I believe that each store should be viewed as a separate company by itself. The store manager is the boss. The field consultants are their mentors. The head office is in charge of doing what's necessary to support the store. In short, the store manager is the most important person in making the store run smoothly day after day and in making profits."

# SUNDAY CROSSWORD

## POETIC PEOPLE



ACROSS
1 Gravy vessel
5 Lord of the ring?
8 School subject
11 Energy
14 Early bird's reward
18 Competent
19 Landmass
21 Epoch
22 Field of study
23 Prime-time cartoon character
25 Speed
27 Discern
28 Fill to the gills
29 Rug material
30 W. Hemisphere grp.
31 Lend an — (listen)
33 "Cheers" actress
37 Marvels
41 "Star Trek" navigator
42 Novelist Ayn
43 — -Magnon
44 Late-night name
46 Limber with language
48 Proclamation
52 "In the Heat of the Night" role
56 Grant and Elwes
59 Muckraker Nellie
60 Actress Braga
61 Schoolboy's shot
62 "Friends," e.g.
63 NASA affirmative
64 Marley's music
67 Blind part
69 Common street name
70 Egg on
71 Gary Cooper role
75 Pacific archipelago
78 Stain
79 To be, to Baudelaire
80 Muzzles
83 Hosp. area
84 Snow White's dwarfs, e.g.
86 Bach's "Bist du bei —"
88 Civil Rights org.
90 "I kid you —"
91 John of "The Addams Family"
92 '37 Masters Tournament winner
95 Mournful sound
97 Granola fruit
99 Challenge
100 RN's specialty
101 Spanish-American coin
104 Shape
106 Hung loosely
109 TV pioneer
112 Mintz or Whitney
113 Offense
114 A Ford
115 Cinderella's soiree
119 Gymnast Korbut
122 Charm
124 "The Pink Panther" director
128 Prayer finale
129 Pub potable
130 — cuff
131 James of "Rollerball"
132 Moreno or Hayworth
133 Take-home
134 What a feller needs
135 "— Day Now" ('62 hit)
136 Rotund wrestling?

DOWN
1 Humbug lead-in
2 Bassoon relative
3 Charity
4 Home on the range?
5 Loser to DDE
6 San — Obispo, CA
7 Cookbook author Rombauer
8 Evaluate
9 "Blame It on —" ('84 film)
10 Catch some rays
11 Problem for Pauline
12 Pencil end
13 Tropical treat
14 Gum gob
15 Sky stalker
16 Price twice
17 Giants Hall-of-Famer
20 Intelligent
24 Author Cornelius
26 Malady
29 Channel
32 Bagel or bialy
34 Warm embraces
35 Pipe connection
36 Unmatched
37 Earlier
38 Mezzo Marilyn
39 Encountered
40 Impudent one
43 Eckerd competitor
45 Stout
47 Uncovered
49 Bridge support
50 Drain problem
51 Little guy
53 Tenor Beniamino
54 Emilia's husband
55 "Petrouchka," for one
57 Annoys
58 Neighbor of Oman
62 Tempestuous
65 Llama turf
66 "Aida" setting
68 Cover girl Carol
70 Ordinary
72 Foul-smelling
73 Yankovic descriptive
74 Completed
75 Informer
76 Computer image
77 Burlap fiber
81 Sample the souffle
82 Nagative one?
84 Honors
85 Kind of paint
87 Highway
89 MBNA competitor
92 Class ring?
93 New Deal agcy.
94 Hawaii's state bird
96 Cholesterol letters
98 Rocky hill
102 Basketball's Dennis
103 Store sign
105 Cross words?
107 Be happy
108 Fragrant flowers
109 TV's "— Vice"
110 Small bay
111 Stephen Vincent —
113 Night light?
116 Alias initials
117 "— smile be your . . ."
118 Spinks or Trotsky
120 Writer Shirley Ann
121 Leading man?
123 — nutshell
124 Bikini part
125 Deli delicacy
126 Word with cell or spell
127 — -Cat (winter vehicle)

ANSWER ON PAGE C4

Junior INQUIRER
INQUIRER
The Toys-In-No-Tears Hospital Visit
Junior INQUIRER
...And the animals loved them back
Junior INQUIRER
Summer Cartoon
Junior INQUIRER
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# Conference on auto parts manufacturers set

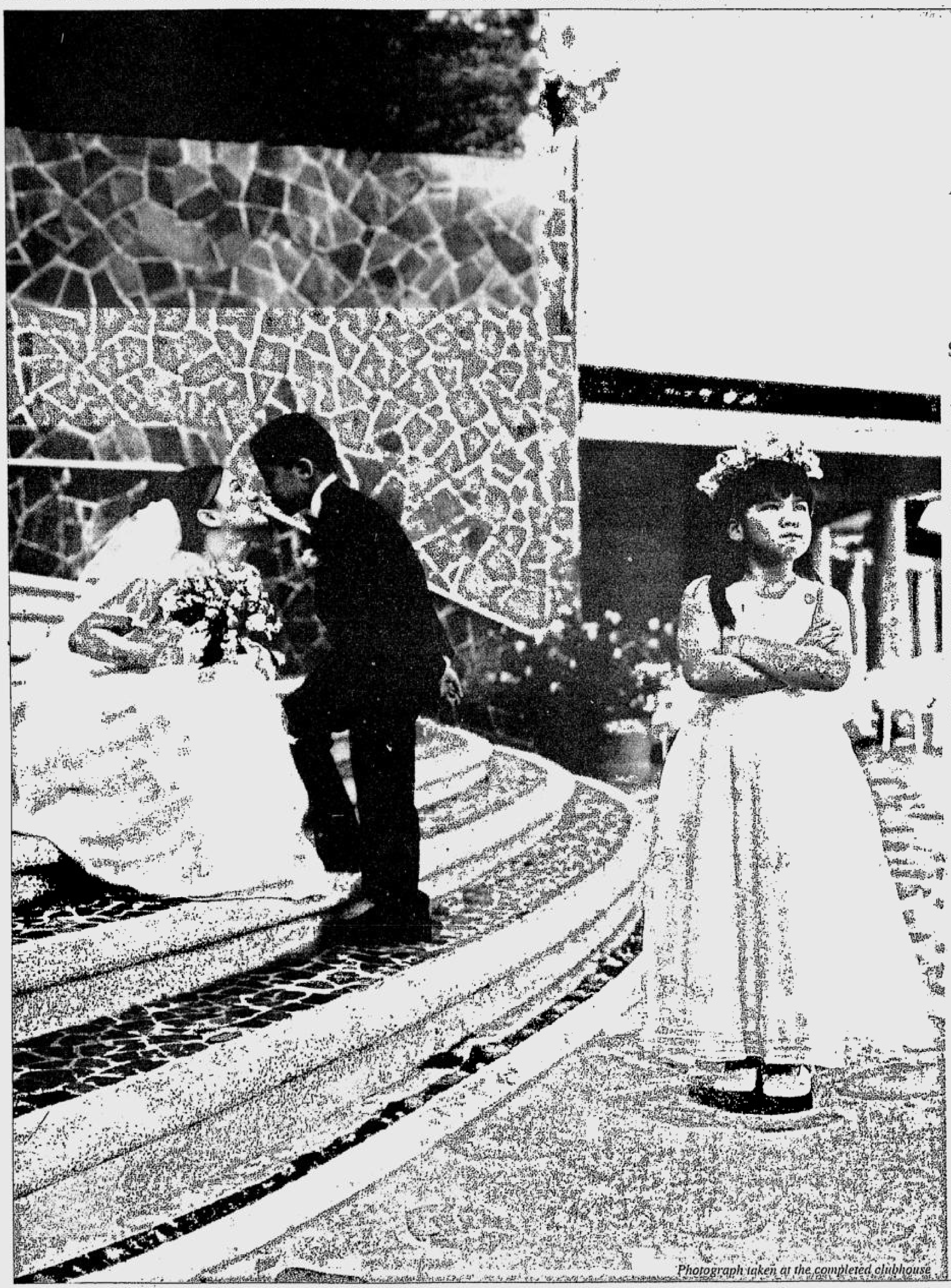
The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) calls on local suppliers of automobile parts and components manufacturers to join the 4th Conference on Asean Auto Supporting Industries slated at the World Trade Center Metro Manila on July 9 and 10. The deadline for registration has been extended up to May 21, 2002.

Co-organized by the Asean Automotive Federation (AAF), the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association Inc. (Jama) and the Japan Auto Parts Industries Association (Japia), the conference invites exhibitors which manufacture auto parts, raw materials (steel, aluminum, plastic, rubber), processed materials (hot and fold forging, casting, aluminum die cast), sub components (precision pressing and stamping, cutting work, heat treatment, surface treatment, plastics molding), dies, tools, machinery, and other automotive-related suppliers, to meet and match with Japanese-affiliated automotive and parts/ components manufacturers in the Asean region.

Japanese and Asean auto and parts manufacturers will display parts and materials they would like to procure and introduce the fields in which they will be interested in joining ventures and technical tie-ups. They will also make presentations on future business strategies for the Asean region and on the company itself.

Suppliers on the other hand will display parts and materials they wish to supply to the Asean region and Japan. Business meetings will be arranged for suppliers and buyers to meet potential partners.

*(For inquiries, call Jetro Manila at 817-6431/892-4359 and look for Ms Joy or Mr. Sasaki.)*



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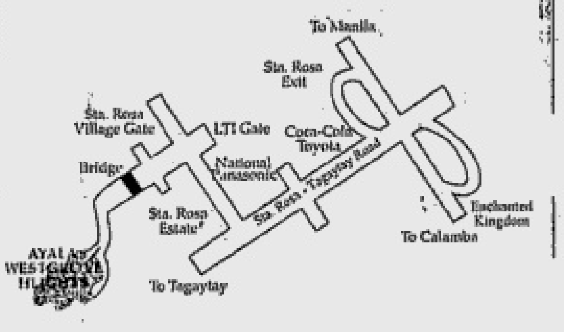

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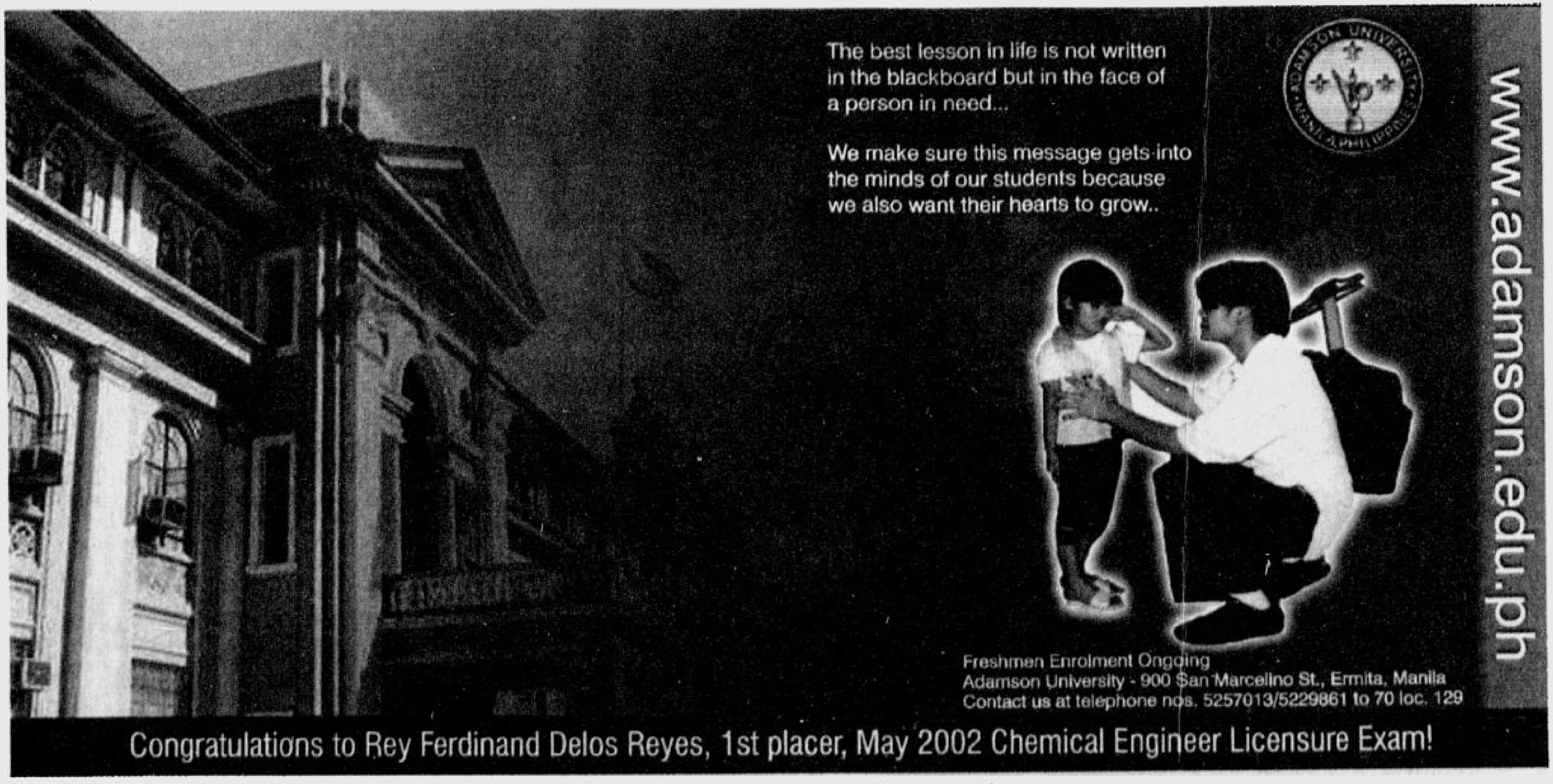

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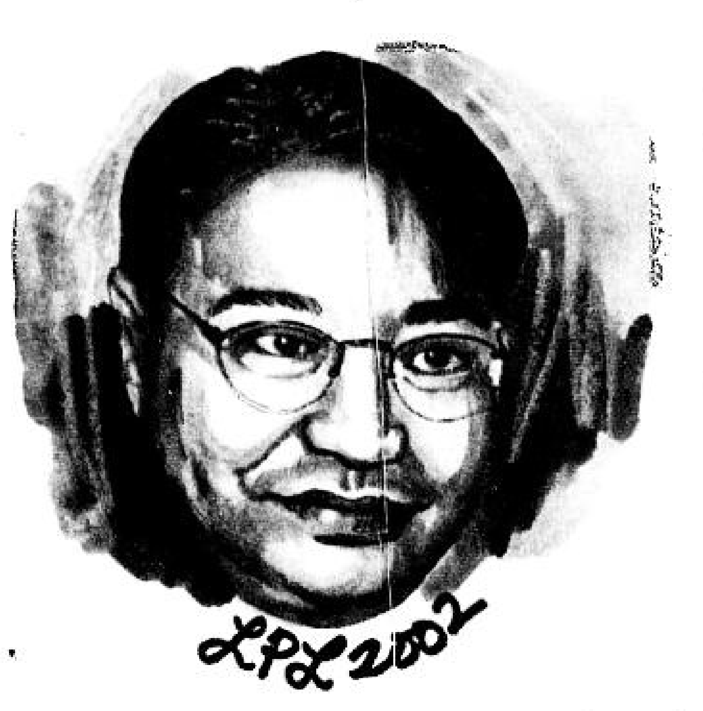
**IN YOUR FACE**

BY L.P. LEVISTE



NEWLY appointed Philippine National Bank president and CEO Lorenzo Tan is supposed to be acceptable to the government and taipan Lucio Tan who are the two biggest shareholders of the bank. Can he solve the huge financial problems of PNB? Only time will tell.

EQUITABLE PCI Bank chair Antonio L. Go recently held cocktails with valued clients and guests to introduce the new president and CEO, Rene J. Buenaventura.
From left are BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Rene J. Buenaventura, Cesar A. Buenaventura, Go, Standard Insurance president & CEO Ernesto Echauz, Renato B. Magadia, Equitable PCI Bank SVP Elvert M. Zosa.

# Stock market bright spot could be losing its shine

NEW YORK—Investors who bought the stocks of mid-sized companies have been among the few shareholders to smile in recent years—but the era of "mid-cap" stocks may be ending.

The big blue chip stocks beaten down in recent years are starting to look cheaper than the stocks of companies with middle-of-the-road market capitalizations between $2 billion and $10 billion, money managers say. Indeed, after two years of gains it's the mid-caps that are starting to look pricey.

"I don't think they (mid-caps) are overvalued yet," said Kathy Dodd, a money manager with Ohio-based Banc One Investment Advisors Corp. "But for the first time ever, valuations have become important" in the mid-cap universe.

Dodd and other money managers still see some upside to the stocks of medium-size companies—but most say the gains are limited after two years of solid advances.

Investors may reallocate the cash spent on stocks like plastics maker A. Schulman Inc. and casino operator Mandalay Resort Group, the top two performers in the Standard & Poor's Mid-cap 400 index, at the first sign that large stocks are on the rebound.

Almost $28 billion flowed into mid-cap funds in the 15 months through to March 31, according to Colorado-based fund tracker Lipper Inc. bringing the total invested to $205 billion.

During that period, funds investing in the biggest companies—the "large-cap" funds—saw an outflow of some $36 billion, leaving the total amount invested in large companies at $1.1 trillion.

Once the shift back to large companies occurs, stocks of medium-size companies will also see less demand from buyers going forward, market watchers said.

Mid-cap "stocks may enjoy favorable momentum in the short run," said Charles Crane, strategist with Victory SBSS Capital Management which oversees $4.5 billion. "But in the next year or two, they are going to surrender some of their relative ground to large caps."

The S&P 400 index closed at an all-time high just last April, and still hovers one percent from that record. By comparison, beaten-down large-cap stocks are keeping the Standard & Poor's 500 index about 28 percent below its March 2000 high.

## Sentiment change

Comparatively better earnings in the last seven quarters, less exposure to the bursting tech bubble and more financial service companies have helped the S&P 400, according to Steve DeSanctis, mid- and small-cap strategist at Prudential Securities.

A major shift of investor sentiment away from the mid-sized companies could come as soon as the third quarter, according to money managers, when large cap quarterly earnings are expected to compare substantially better to prior periods.

S&P 500 quarterly earnings are expected to grow by almost 27 percent in the September quarter, after a decline of 21.6 in the year-ago period, according to Thomson/First Call. Though mid-caps are expected to grow by 30.3 percent in the third-quarter, they only fell 16.4 percent in the same period in 2001.

Valuations on both the indexes are about the same right now, around 19.5 times the coming year's expected earnings, according to First Call, but going forward medium company stocks are expected to become increasingly expensive.

Looking at 2003 earnings forecasts, the S&P 500 index has a relatively modest price-earnings multiple of 19.6, but the mid-cap-heavy S&P 400 is at a hefty 28.5.

Individual price-earnings multiples on mid-cap stocks are also looking top heavy compared with larger companies, Dodd said.

Shares in regional bank Compass Bancshares, with a market value of $4.5 billion, are up 53 percent since the attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, and trade at 13 times 12-month forward earnings.

While Dodd can see the regional bank trading at a price-to-earnings ratio of 15, she notes that Wells Fargo, the No. 5 US bank holding company, has a forward p/e of just 14, and with a gain of 22 percent since Sept. 11, has a greater potential to advance.

## Stocks nearing the ceiling

Similarly in the media sector, Clear Channel Communications Inc., the nation's largest radio broadcaster, is trading at 17 times earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (ebitda). Based on its historical performance relative to its peers, Dodd perceives Clear Channel climbing to 21 times that earnings measure.

Another mid-cap, newspaper publisher Media Genera, is reaching its ceiling, Dodd said. It's now trading at 10 times its earnings, with interest and the other items excluded, and may go to 12, close to its historical high.

"I'd be surprised if the rate of outperformance of mid-caps continued," said David Wallack, portfolio manager of the Baltimore-based T. Rowe Price mid-cap value fund which oversees $1 billion in assets. "While mid-caps are still attractive, they are not at the deep discounted values of a few years ago."

His picks in the sector include offshore driller Diamon Offshore and insurance company Safeco Corp. *Reuters*

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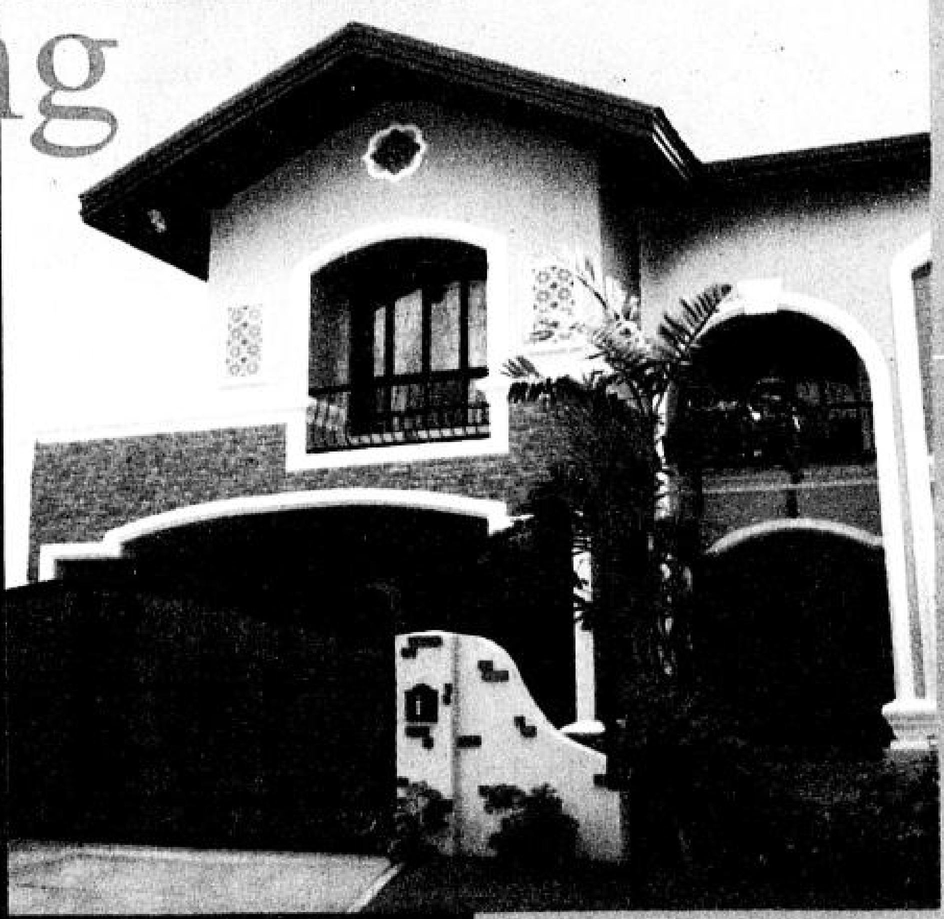

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# Souvenir hunting thrives in the City of Pines

**By Jovelyn Reyes**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BAGUIO CITY—In the 1970s, tourists who visited Baguio never left the city without bringing home cheap souvenir items like key chains, bonnets, native bracelets, T-shirts and small pieces of woodcarving to remind them of their stay in the City of Pines.

These cheap, saleable items have a steady stream of buyers among visitors and the trade of these items has become a lucrative business in the city.

"Until now, more than 30 years after, these items are still selling well," says Christopher Vicente, a souvenir stall owner at the Mines View Park here. Vicente's family has been maintaining the stall for 60 years now.

"People coming to Baguio had to buy something that would remind them that they indeed had been here," he explains in Filipino.

Vicente, now in his 50s and spokesperson of the Mines View Allied Association, is one of the oldest vendor-residents of the park.

**GOODS** sold start from as low as P10.

At least 250 stalls are selling souvenir items at Mines View.

During the Baguio Flower Festival or Panagbenga in February, Vicente says many visitors went to Mines View Park and visited souvenir shops there.

He adds that during peak tourist seasons, one stall could earn at least P5,000 a day from selling key chains, bonnets, small pieces of woodcarving and T-shirts, all bearing the "Baguio City" tag.

"*Pinakamabili yung mga may tatak na Mines View at Baguio City* (The most saleable items are those bearing the Mines View and Baguio Citymarks)," he says.

Vicente says leather and wooden key chains worth P10 enjoyed brisk sales during the flower festival. Even the famous "barrel man" and the ubiquitous wooden penis ashtray also had good sales, he says.

"Because these are cheap and ideal for giveaways," he cites.

Knitted bonnets sell for P20-P25 while Baguio shirts sell for P100-P150.

Vicente says even on non-peak seasons, vendors at Mines View do not experience zero-income "unless there is a typhoon that we are forced to close our shops."

Unlike stalls in other parks in the city, the vendors are exempted from paying rentals. The stalls were built and maintained by the government since 1960.

**SALES** are brisk at Mines View compared with other tourist spots.

PHOTO BY TOOTS SEBRANO

"It helps us a lot that the government is not asking us to pay rent," he says.

Manang Rose, who has been selling souvenir items at Mines View since she was a child, says she started in the business with only a P50 capital.

Her stall, she says, now contains at least P500,000 worth of souvenir items.

But vendors in the other parks are not as lucky as those in Mines View.

Sales of souvenir items in stalls at Wright Park, the park famous for its horse rental business, are not enjoying brisk sales.

Marivel Manalo, a stall owner at Wright Park, laments that tourists rarely buy items at the park.

Usually, she said tourists would go to Mines View first and buy souvenir items there. They then visit Wright Park to have their pictures taken at the Mansion's gates and the Wright Park's pond.

"Only food products are selling well here," she says in Filipino.

Souvenir sales at the Lourdes Grotto are also low, says Robert Gaerlan, president of the Lourdes Grotto Hawkers Association.

"The sale depends on the season. The flower festival celebration did not push our sales," he says.

Many visitors troop to the grotto only during the Lenten season.

"This is a pilgrimage site and not many people visit the place during regular holidays," he says.

Aside from cheap souvenirs, carved statues of Sto. Niño and images of the Virgin Mary are the best sellers in the stalls at the grotto.

At least 25 stalls are selling souvenir items at the grotto. Many of the vendors' parents had been selling since they were born.

Corazon Ormillo, 31, says she grew up selling candles and key chains to devotees at the grotto since she was six. Her family, she says, has been selling souvenir items at the grotto since the 1950s.

"Selling here has been a part of our lives, it may be impractical to sell (because of the low income) here but we are sentimental of our roots and the Jesuits are kind," Gaerlan says.

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# Fine Arts grad earns big selling the beauty of the Philippines

**By Hazel P. Villa**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

**PINOY ENTREPRENEUR**

BACOLOD CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon's idea of generating cash for the national coffers and improving domestic tourism was to call for fewer working days so that people can spend more days traipsing around the archipelago and releasing cash in the process.

Even before the call to tour came, a 29-year-old native of Antique province has been raking in money from managing local tours in 27 ports of call in the country.

With the government's current focus on domestic tourism, he expects his pockets to overflow.

In less than three years of company operations, Frederick Thortsen Pe, a Fine Arts graduate of the La Consolacion College of Bacolod City, has brought 3,000 local tourists to Cebu in 2000-2001 (the most among travel agencies).

He put in P7 million in gross ticket sales to shipping company WG&A last year and was recognized by the DOT Bacolod as the No. 1 travel agency in Metro Bacolod for 2001.

At the peak of the travel season—October to March—Pe's company called "Jaunts and Journeys Travel Center" at Rm. 103 of VSB Bldg. at 6th Lacson St. across the Negros Museum, can earn up to P4 million a month.

From April to August, Pe says the company's income goes down substantially. It earns the least from June to July but only "at a comfortable level."

Pe stumbled into the local tourism industry by force of circumstances. One of his seven awards upon graduation in March 18, 1993 was the Negros Navigation Outstanding Graduate Award.

The company was so taken by Pe's PR skills that two days after his graduation, NN hired him.

Pe saw the company's ships and buses and thought that these could bring in more money. He approached Milagros Kilayko, then president of NN Transport Operations and suggested that NN put up a tour company. Kilayko told him to prepare a proposal. A month after, Pe was employed. NN Tours was born.

Pe and his colleagues prepared travel packages for each of NN's 20 ports of call. They put up branches and established contacts with hotels, restaurants and resorts for their packages. The strategy worked and NN earned handsomely from the tours.

After two years, Te was promoted to tour division supervisor and then Iloilo branch officer for tours. What could have been a steady rise up the career ladder came to a jarring halt when Manuel V. Pangilinan's Metro Pacific bought NN in 1998.

"I did not see growth when NN was bought and my former bosses told me that my life should move on given my talent and skills, so I put up my own company," says Pe, who was president of La Consolacion College's supreme student government during his schooldays.

Last Oct. 18, 1999, on Pe's 26th birthday, "Jaunts and Journeys Travel Center" with a capital of P500,000 came to be, but with much trepidation on Pe's part.

"I was doubtful at first because I thought people would not patronize us since NN was a big name but I later found out that clients come in if they liked your services," says Te, whose family owns the '76 Express buses that ply the Iloilo-Antique route.

A day after opening "Jaunts and Journeys (J and J)," the company had its first tour of 150 students from the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos.

"Everything just followed after that first tour," says Pe.

He started with a staff of five. He now has 13 employees with regular salaries and has opened a branch in Iloilo City this April.

Aside from local student package tours that bring in bulk of the income, J and J also operates international tours, offers passport services, airline ticketing, visa assistance, seminars and cruises on board as well as navigational trips for students of maritime schools.

Most of Pe's clients are schools, colleges and universities in the Visayas who come to him year after year to manage their tours mostly because J and J is a stickler for perfection and offers the most reasonable price among travel agencies.

"If we cannot make our clients' trip perfect, at least it should be almost perfect," says Pe who billets local tourists in hotels and resorts and treats them to the locale's best cuisine.

From any point in the Visayas for a Manila-Baguio-Tagaytay-Subic tour of more than a week for 60 persons or more, J and J charges much less than the typical package of P14,000. Local tourists in big groups can go around the top spots of the Visayas for less than P5,000 for several days.

Pe's philosophy jibes with that of the DOT that before people spend their hard-earned money, they must first experience how enjoyable it is to travel around the Philippines. And if it is a satisfying adventure, domestic tourists spread the word and the following year, travel agencies can be assured of clients who call.

Pe, who now owns a house and lot as well as a car from J and J's profits, says he attributes much of his business success to God's blessings, his supportive family, his staff, the clients who have continued to trust him and even his detractors whom he says "are my strength and the reason why I make my tours the best there is."

J and J's staff are not your ordinary employees. Pe says he understands that the tourism industry is one that banks not only on good looks but brains also. His company now has a reputation for making school presentations and tour biddings look like a Binibining Pilipinas contest, with tall and good-looking employees who are honor graduates, pitching for the beauty of the Philippines.

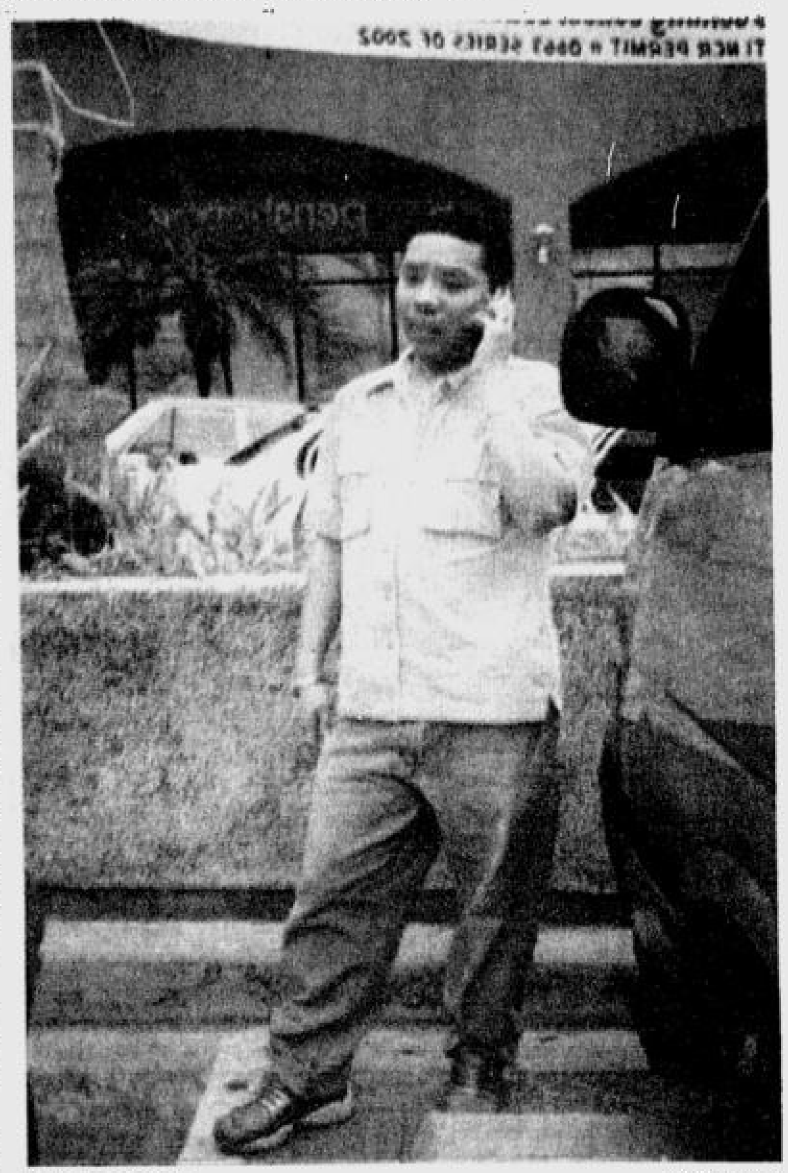
So are J and J's tour guides knowledgeable about the locale's history, environment, arts and culture.

The accounting staff that makes the round of clients can make P2.7 million a month in gross sales with hefty commissions going to them for all their efforts. This is on top of their salary and other perks, says Pe.

For its success, the big names have made J and J part of their tourism promotions. Bacolod's DOT for instance chose the company as its official handler and Pe himself is vice president of the 24-member Negros Association of Tour Operators.

WG&A, on the other hand, recognized J and J (its official travel agency) with an award this February as "Most Outstanding Outlet in Western Visayas for 2001" for bringing in P7 million in gross ticket sales last year.

Pe, however, says he is most proud of the company's Community Achievement Award from Bacolod City given last March 2001 during the Panaad Festival, Negros' "mother of all festivals" when all towns and cities gather for a weeklong arts and culture event.



FREDERICK Pe.

HAZEL P. VILLA

The award is in recognition for J and J's adoption of a squatter barangay in Banago here where the company conducts a "Pamaskua sa Pigado (Christmas for the Poor)" every December since 1999.

Aside from adopting a barangay, J and J also sets aside P5 from every tourist that is then given to the Holy Infant Orphanage in Sum-ag here.

Pe believes that his blessings come from helping the orphans whom he calls "angels who are the wind beneath my wings." He says that whatever he has at the end would someday go to the orphanage.

Pe's success in the local travel industry was in tandem with another business that was founded in 1999. He is also into events organizing with Think Tank Productions in partnership with businesswoman Zara Escandelor and former NN stockholder Gerry Ledesma Mapa. The trio brings big-time Manila bands and performers to Bacolod City and this June, will be organizing and managing the Ginoong Turismo Bacolod Man of the Year.

On May 18, Pe opens yet another business—the Virtual A Internet Café and Coffee Station at the back of his J and J office. He says business ideas just creep into his head and he works on them right away.

Pe's well of good luck remains deep and he believes that as long as the government keeps its focus on local tourism, J and J as well as other travel agencies are expected to do well and even without it, judging from the look of things, Te's PR skills and business acumen will find a way out of whatever hardships there are.

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# Dreams pushed this CEO to rise to the top of the corporate ladder

From page B1

walked from one building to another, oftentimes under the scorching heat of the sun, and climbed up and down several floors in each one.

"I liked my job as a collector, but I knew I wasn't going to stay long in the position and would soon end up in a sales job," says Serrano. He says getting into sales was really his aim when he applied in Kodak. What motivated him for the position was the thought of having a car, which the company provides for its sales agents.

"At that time, to own a V1200 was a big deal. So I did my best in the credit-collection work to move myself up to the sales job."

The opportunity to realize his dream came after one-and-a-half years, when he was promoted to sales representative.

### 'CBA'

What pushed him to work hard was his motto summed up in three letters—CBA. He explains the letters were taken from the term "collective bargaining agreement" for easy recall, but this actually stands for "What the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve." He says he got this precept during one of the work-related seminars he attended when he was just starting his career, and has inculcated it in himself since then.

But landing a sales job and having his own car were just his short-term goals. While doing well in selling, at the back of Serrano's head was the long-term goal of becoming the head of the company.

He said it took him an average of two-and-a-half years before he got promoted from one position to the next. After sales, he became a training supervisor then a manager of different departments.

Serrano's drive for success didn't go unnoticed. Realizing his potentials, Kodak sent him to Taiwan and Hong Kong for managerial posts.

He was also sent by the company to Harvard University for a five-month course on Advance Management/International Senior Managers Program.

Upon his return he was made president/general manager of Kodak.

SERRANO wears jersey No. 5.

It took him 23 years to rise from collector to company president where he stayed for three years.

In 1996, he decided to retire from Kodak. But realizing later how much he could still contribute in the corporate world, he accepted an offer from Motorola to be its country manager, then later on as director for regional operations.

But after only two years, he accepted the challenge of leading Fuji Xerox.

Fuji Xerox sells copiers, facsimile machines and software solutions. It used to be a partnership between the Yuchengco group and Fuji Xerox but in 1999, the Yuchengco group sold all its shares and Fuji Xerox Phils. became a wholly owned subsidiary of Fuji Xerox Asia-Pacific.

### Herculean task

Serrano was tapped by Fuji in 2001 to lead the company in its transition from the old management.

Leading an organization that has undergone change was a Herculean task for Serrano. He says that since the company seemed to be starting anew, he had to review old policies and polish those he considered could be improved on.

"What I like about this job is the challenge and the fact that I get directly involved in all aspects of the business." Serrano says that as the new president, he initiates programs that will focus on improving business conduct, compensation and benefits, procedures, car programs, etc., and "this to me is the challenge of my work."

But Serrano believes that aside from one's passion for a company's success, another key is having the right people around.

Asked how he knows if he has the right people, Serrano says he has the "acumen to see if a person is good or not." He sometimes asks people what their goal is, "and if someone says, 'I want to be the company president,' I would know if it just comes from the mouth and not from the mind and the heart."

And when he already has the right people, "what I do is take them close to me and mentor them." Through this, he says, people will know what to improve on and thus help themselves and, in return, the company.

The close relationship with his people could have been influenced by his good family relationship. He recalls how his parents would bring him and his five other siblings to low-budget outings just so they could have a bonding activity. He said that with the lack of material things, it was the close family tie that compensated and made them happy.

SINCE there was no opening in the basketball team, Serrano instead applied in San Beda's football team.

His family was also the one who taught him the value of hard work. Since his parents were not earning much from their government and teaching jobs, they had to work doubly hard to sustain the needs of their six children. He even remembers his parents would pawn anything of value to pay for the children's schooling.

His parents' income was augmented by his father's pension, having been a war veteran. They also had discounts because his mother was a teacher at the University of Santo Tomas.

All his five elder brothers and sisters went to UST. But the youngest Serrano deviated from their path and applied in San Beda, having long thought of studying in an exclusive for boys school. But without the discounts, his parents could not afford San Beda.

Serrano would not be deterred from his dream so he used his skill in sports to get a college scholarship.

Having been a member of the elementary midget basketball team of San Sebastian, Serrano initially dreamed of becoming a national basketball player. His house was just across the compound where basketball and football athletes were staying and holding their practice. He was inspired to be like the country's top players.

SKILLS in sports got him a scholarship.

Unfortunately, there was no opening for San Beda's basketball team; but there was for the football team. In need of a scholarship and wanting to pursue his dreams Serrano tried out for the football team and was admitted.

He played for the Philippine Football Association for seven years. But left after he got married and got the sales job at Kodak. It was time to focus on career and family.

Aside from sports, this talented company president also has a flair for music. In high school, he used to play in a band where he met his wife.

He says he has a band set at home where his sons play the drums and the lead guitar, his wife plays the bass guitar and he plays the rhythm guitar.

His elder son Robert, 28, has just graduated from his masters studies at the Asian Institute of Management. His younger son Mark, 23, will be graduating from college in De La Salle University.

Looking at how he has raised his own family, Serrano knows that his dreaming and hard work paid well.

Feeling he has accomplished everything he needs to attain for himself, he says he does not have any personal goal anymore.

But he says he definitely still has one more thing to dream of—and that is to bring Fuji to greater heights and consequently help further improve the lives of its employees and their families.

# Three friends bankroll their passion for time

THEY were three friends with different professional backgrounds but who shared a common passion for telling time.

Lawyer Jose Palaganas, who just passed the Bar examinations, is the corporate secretary of the company. Sammy Sia, the president, is part of a construction development company. Apples Enriquez, the only female member in the team, is from the banking industry.

JOSE Palaganas, Apples Enriquez and Sammy Sia

During a brainstorming session, they realized there were no reasonably priced fashionable watches in the market yet. Thus they came up with the concept Got Time?

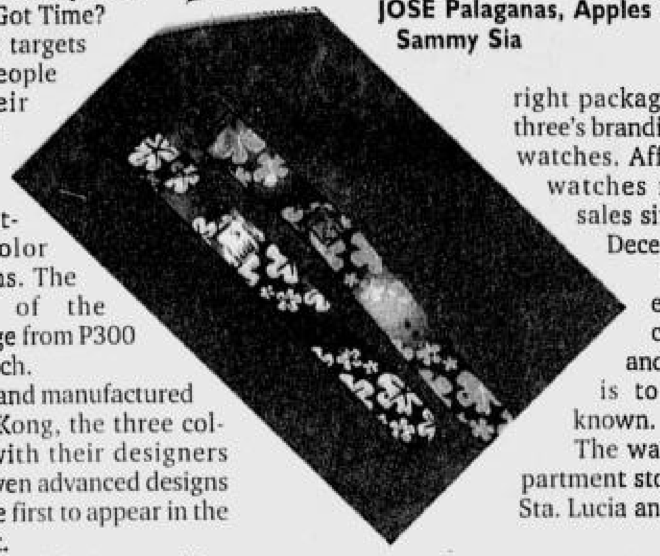
Got Time? targets the young people with their transparent wrist-bands and varied prints in attractive color combinations. The price tag of the watches range from P300 to P1,200 each.

Designed and manufactured from Hong Kong, the three collaborated with their designers who have given advanced designs that were the first to appear in the local market.

The advanced designs and the right packaging completed the three's branding strategy for their watches. Affordability of their watches rapidly increased sales since their launch in December 2000.

The three hope to expand into other accessories like bags and wallets. Their focus is to make the brand known.

The watches is sold in department stores like Cinderella, Sta. Lucia and SM.


GOT TIME? watches sell for P300 to P1,200.

# Grab a new loan over the phone

THE COUNTRY'S largest foreign bank recently introduced a new consumer loan product that offers borrowers easy and quick access to cash. One can avail of the Citibank Installment Loan by applying over the phone or through the traditional means of visiting the bank, and receive their cash in as soon as seven days.

"We're very proud to bring this product to the market—definitely the most fuss-free loan facility. You don't have to be a Citibank customer to apply for one, you can inquire on your eligibility from the comforts of your home or office by calling our hotline number, and if approved, we will go to you to sign the application form and pick up the required documents," explained Cecille Fonacier, marketing director for Citibank.

According to Fonacier, the Citibank Installment Loan is part of the bank's continuing efforts to develop new products and services that address the market's changing needs.

With Citibank Installment Loan, a borrower may loan any amount from P15,000 up to P1 million, payable for as long as 36 months to as short as 12 months. Interest rates range from 1.5 percent to 2 percent per month. For a P15,000 loan, monthly installment can go as low as P717 depending on the payment period.

Citibank Installment Loan does not require collateral, co-maker or initial deposit, as well as post-dated checks to be issued in favor of the bank. This multipurpose loan facility can be used for home repair, business, furniture and appliance purchases, school tuition payment, bills payment, insurance premiums payment, medical expenses, lifestyle expenditures and travels.

Assistant vice president Patty Pronove-Henson also pointed out that they welcome self-employed individuals. "We realize entrepreneurs also need access to cash and so we are opening up the product to them."

Self-employed applicants only need to prove at least an annual income of P180,000, and should have a three-year-old business. For employed applicants, a P10,000 monthly income or P120,000 annual income and a six-month tenure in their current job will get their foot into the door.

To get a Citibank Installment loan, simply call Citibank's Loan-On-Phone Hotline at 423-3333 from Mondays to Saturdays between 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and on Sundays between 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The caller is instantly connected to a Citibank representative who will process the application online and can give a conditional approval on loan amount and payment period within 15 minutes. To complete the application, a messenger from Citibank will deliver the application form to the applicant and also pick up supporting documents.

In as soon as seven days, the loan is ready for release. The borrower has two options on how to receive the cash—by Fund Transfer where Citibank will credit the loan amount to his bank account, or by Manager's Check which will be delivered to his residence or place of work.

For added convenience, monthly statements will be sent to the borrower to remind him of payment due dates. Bills can be settled at any Citibank accredited payment centers including MegaLink-/BancNet-affiliated banks and SM Department Stores nationwide.

You may also inquire about the Citibank Installment Loan from authorized Citibank sales representatives.

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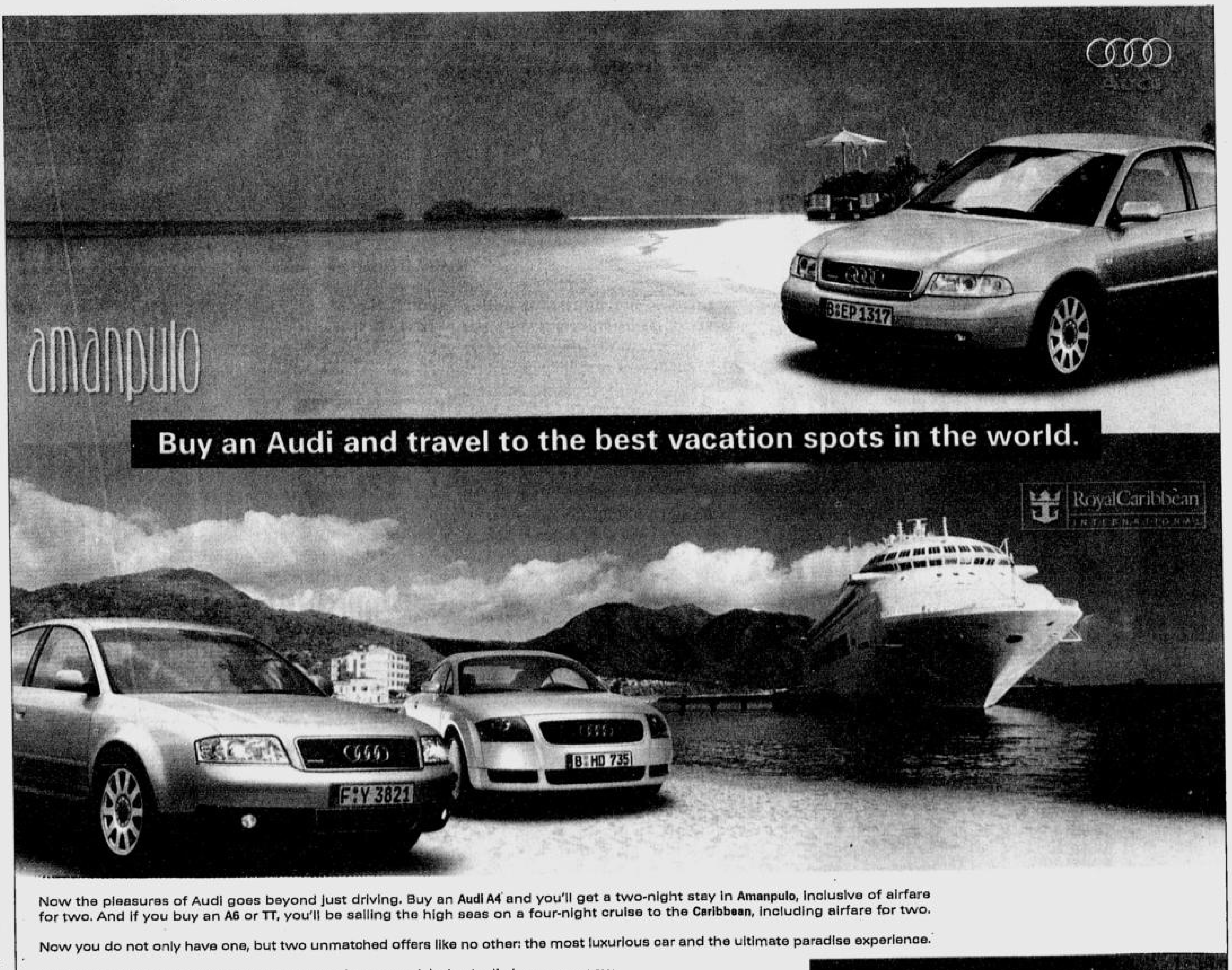
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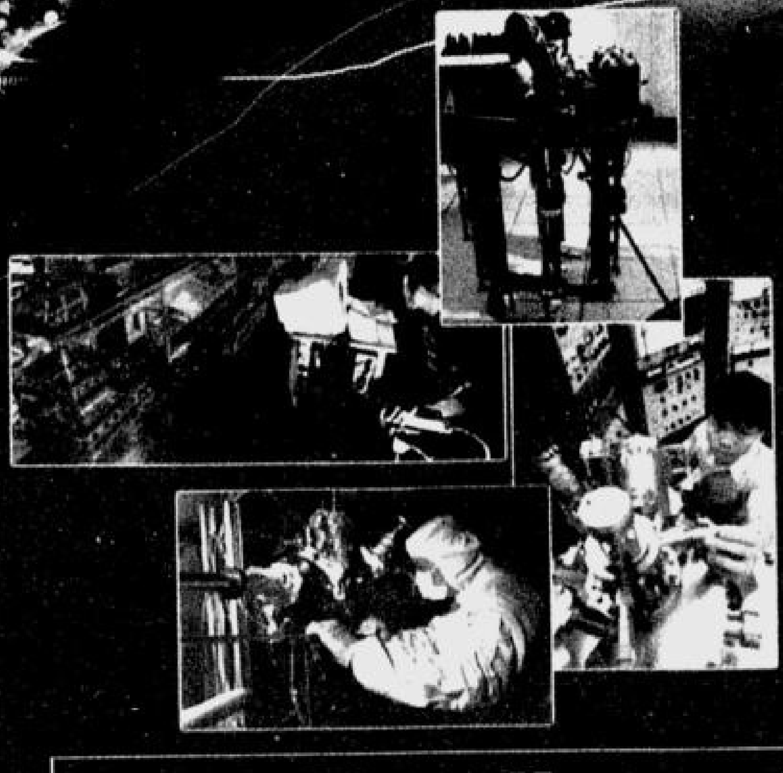

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*Strengthening the Foundations of Lasting Peace and Development in Southern Philippines*

## URGENT RECRUITMENT

An International development organization implementing peace and development in Southern Philippines is in search of a qualified individual to fill up the post of a Senior Finance Officer (SFO) to be based in Cotabato City and reporting directly to the Programme Coordinator (PC) and closely coordinating with Programme Support Coordinating Team (PSCT) focal points:

### A. Technical Accountabilities

- Review, install and recommend revisions on the financial and accounting system in the Manual of Operations of the Programme;
- Review budget expenditures and cash advances, prepares and analyzes financial data;
- Review, monitor and consolidate information for the preparation of budget requirements/ expenditures;
- Ensure controls and operates bank accounts (up-to-date cash position and bank statements reconciliation);
- Monitors/supervise, review, prepares and reconcile financial and accounting reports;
- Provides analysis/recommendations to the PC on the maintenance of accounts, budget controls, and financial status reports of the Programme and project components, budget, procedures, cost of expenditures and potential funding problems; and to assist/provide the same technical advise on all project components
- Establish and maintain the payroll system; facilitate the conduct of financial and management audit
- Support the preparation of the work and financial programming in collaboration with the Administrative and Procurement Officer (APO), Management Information System Officer (MIS) and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (M&E);

### B. Supervision

- Supervise, review and check, in accordance w/ established rules/procedures, of the Finance Unit and other Finance Staff of Area Coordination Teams (ACT) and other project components;
- Coach all financial staff in carrying respective tasks and work plans;
- Monitor and evaluate unit performance and introduce improvements and problem solving measures.

### C. Auxiliary

- Undertakes financial monitoring visits to ACTs, provide accounting/financial training/support, establish/review systems/procedures and prepares reports and recommendations; and
- Briefs/orients new staff on the established financial system and UN/UNDP rules and procedures.

**Qualifications:** Certified Public Accountant with at least 5 years experience involving financial management and supervision in a foreign-funded Project Management Office set-up; able to converse in most of the local dialects in Southern Philippines. A thorough understanding of, and actual exposure to, the socio-cultural dynamics and political situations in Southern Philippines, an advantage.

**All application letters and comprehensive resume should reach our office on or before Friday, 31 May 2002.**

**Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. nos. (632) 892-4528/892-0611 to 25, fax nos. (632) 8160461/8939598, e-mail address: be_admin.ph@undp.org**

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Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**

CBRMP

CBRMP is a government project under the Department of Finance with financing assistance from World Bank. It seeks to pump-prime and enhance the capacities of the Local Government Units in region to manage their natural resources and rural development concerns. The project invites qualified applicants for the following vacant positions.

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- With at least three (3) years experience and demonstrated skills in project management, monitoring and evaluation;
- Strong interpersonal, working and coordination skills;
- Must possess the ability to work well with LGUs, communities and a multi-disciplinary team of technical staff and experts;
- With very good technical writing and communication skills;
- Must be computer literate;
- Resident of Region 8, or must be willing to be assigned in the region; and
- Must be able to understand or speak the local dialect.

One (1) PPS with the following qualifications:

- Must hold at least a bachelor's degree in Agriculture, Agribusiness, Agricultural Economics or any other related fields (a masteral degree would be an advantage);
- At least three (3) years relevant experience in community-based projects or LGU implemented projects;
- Strong background/exposure and/or training in livelihood management;
- With at least three (3) years experience and demonstrated skills in project management, monitoring and evaluation;
- Strong interpersonal, working and coordination skills;
- Must possess the ability to work well with LGUs, communities and a multi-disciplinary team of technical staff and experts;
- With very good technical writing and communication skills;
- Must be computer literate;
- Resident of Region 8, or must be willing to be assigned in the region; and
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Interested applicants may send their letter of application, resumé, transcript of records, and 2x2 picture on or before 22 of May 2002.

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**New Manila, Quezon City**
**Tel.: 411-6587/93 • 726-3271/72**
**Look for LEN**

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

## ADMIN/ ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

*Qualifications:*

- Graduate in Accounting/Finance/Commerce/ Secretarial, etc.
- Female, not more than 30 years old
- Computer literate, well acquainted with office softwares
- Working knowledge of bookkeeping
- Good Communication skills in English
- Must have at least 2 years work experience

Interested candidates should mail/fax/email resumé to:

Plantek, Inc.
B.A.P.O. Box 60
40 Solar St., Bel-Air 3 Village, Makati City 1209
Telefax No. (02) 896-6439
Email: dnchaudh@info.com.ph

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SM

**Retail Affiliate Companies offer CAREER OPPORTUNITIES for our soon-to-open branches in BICUTAN and CAGAYAN DE ORO**

### MANAGERS / SUPERVISORS

( STORE OPERATIONS / COUNTER / CHECKING )

- M/F, not more than 35 yrs old, college graduate and with experience in retail operations
- Must possess strong leadership skills to effectively direct a team of store personnel
- Will be responsible for personnel management, customer relations, inventory control, merchandise display, security measures and housekeeping of the assigned branch

### MERCHANDISE MANAGERS/BUYERS

- M/F, college graduate, not more than 35 yrs old and with purchasing experience in a retail set- up
- Must have extensive knowledge in merchandising trends and new product lines in the market and experience in merchandise procurement, sampling and inventory management

### WAREHOUSE MANAGERS/SUPERVISORS

- Male, not more than 32 yrs old, college graduate, and with experience in retail operations
- Must have 3-5 yrs experience in all aspects of warehouse operations preferably in a retail or trading entity
- Trustworthy, can strictly enforce warehouse procedures

### SALES COORDINATORS

- Male, not more than 45 years old
- With extensive experience as Construction Foreman
- Responsibilities include advising the customers in areas of construction and home improvements such as plumbing, electrical, carpentry and painting

### LICENSED PHARMACISTS

- Female, not more than 30 yrs old, with at least 6 months related experience
- Will be responsible for the preparation of galenical and compunds, in dispensing prescription and sales monitoring

### COMPANY NURSES

- Female, Registered Nurse, not more than 30 years old
- With at least 1 year related experience in a hospital or industrial setting
- Has good oral and written communication skills

### ACCOUNTING/PERSONNEL/TREASURY/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

- Female, not more than 25 years old
- Graduate of Commerce, Accountancy, Behavioral Science, Psychology or any related courses

***Above-industry compensation package PLUS opportunities for personal and career growth will be given to qualified applicants***

***Please send comprehensive resume with recent 1x1 photo and contact numbers to:***

HR AFFILIATES
SM Head Office - Annex
400 San Diego Bldg. Carlos Palanca St, Echague
Quiapo, Manila

EMAIL ADDRESS
Recruit.HRAff.HO@sm-shoemart.com

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## INTERIOR DESIGNER

- Female, 21-25 years old
- Graduate of Interior Design
- Must have very good color coordination and combination skills
- Must have good drawing and sketching abilities
- Must have good communication skills
- With pleasing personality

**Job Description:**

- Will be the showroom salesperson selling high-end European furniture from Giorgio Saporiti & Malnati
- Will help client choose the right color, fabric, design of furniture to match client's interior
- Will make and submit colored drawings of furniture pieces to clients to aid them in visualization

***TO SEE THE PRODUCTS YOU ARE GOING TO SELL VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT***
www.dexterton.com click new products

Interested applicants may mail resume with 2x2 photo and transcript of records to:

**Attention: Dexter Go**
**Dexterton Industrial Corp.**
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St., Quezon City, Philippines
Tels: 361-6006 • 362-1111

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GLOBAL CITY
INNOVATIVE COLLEGE

*Is looking for*
*TOP CALIBER, DYNAMIC* ***INSTRUCTOR*** *in*

## B.S. IN NURSING

- must be at least Master's Degree in relevant field
- to teach General Education subjects ( English, Math, Pilipino, Philosophy, History, etc...)
- NEW & MODERN FACILITIES ( Centralized aircon )
- Room for growth and development,
- Attractive compensation package
- Convenient location for Taguig, Pateros, Pasig, Q.C., Mandaluyong, Makati, San Juan & Metro Manila residents
- pls. bring necessary documents (resume, diploma, transcript, etc...)

Address - 3/F HATCHASIA BLDG. FORT BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY
(Yellow Bldg. near S&R and Jollibee, near Kalayaan flyover Edsa)
For Inquiries TEL.:
818.0945 / 818.0946 / txt 09198084070

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Project Seahorse

HARIBON
FOUNDATION

**Haribon Foundation** is a non-stock, non-profit and membership organization commited to nature conservation through community empowerment and scientific excellence. Organized in 1972 as a bird watching society, **Haribon** is known to be the pioneer environmental organization in the Philippines. For this year, we invite dedicated professionals to join our partner **Project Seahorse** to occupy the following positions.

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR**
Experienced and outgoing professional with extensive leadership and management skills required to lead an established multidisciplinary marine conservation and fisheries management program in the Philippines. The position involves fostering and guiding initiatives and supervising the research and conservation activities of 10 professional staff. The Director will maintain close ties with government line agencies, academe, non-government organizations (NGOs), international agencies and present the interest of the PS-HF program internationally.
*Qualifications:* Advanced degree, in either biology, environmental economics or social development. Biologists and environmental scientists preferred.
*Location:* Cebu City
*Start Date:* July 1,2002

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND LIVELIHOOD COORDINATOR**
Experienced and outgoing professional required to work with a team of social workers and biologists in rural fishing communities to determine and evaluate constraints to resource management and livelihood improvement.
Qualification: Postgraduate degree in social or development field, or have equivalent relevant experience
*Location:* Cebu and London
*Start Date:*June 1,2002

**LIVELIHOOD RESEARCH BIOLOGIST**-Independent and motivated individual required to conduct field-based experimental biological research for community based marine conservation initiatives.
*Qualifications:* University degree in Biology. Postgraduate experience a distinct advantage
*Location:* Northern Bohol
*Start Date:* July 1,2002

**COMMUNITY ORGANISER (CO)**
Outgoing and mature individual required to work as part of a team to facilitate the information of fisher folks' institutions/ alliances, and to do organizing work at the community level to promote community-based seahorse fishery management and marine conservation.
*Qualifications:* has experience working with fisher folk and leaders of the local government units from municipal to provincial level with background in resource management, community organizing and policy development.
*Location:* Northern Bohol
*Start Date:* June 1,2002

Due to urgency of requirements,qualified applicants may submit their comprehensive resume through mail or e-mail to the Cebu office on or before May 24, 2002.
Only short-listed candidates will be called for an interview.
Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.
*Attention to:Finance and Administrative Officer- Ms. Miriam R. Gabucan*
**Project Seahorse - Haribon Foundation**
# 12 Espina Compound, B. Rodriguez St., Cebu City
For Inquiries Call Cebu (032) 254 4909, (032) 254 3491, (032) 253 8532
E-mail: mrgabucan@eudoramail.com

**COLGATE-PALMOLIVE PHILIPPINES, INC.**

The manufacturer of leading consumer goods brands such as Colgate, Palmolive, Gard, Tender Care and Axion seeks dynamic business partners as

# DISTRIBUTOR

for:

**Lanao Provinces, Bukidnon Province and Misamis Oriental Province (Cagayan de Oro City), excluding Gingoog City**

and another for:

**Batangas Province, Mindoro Island and Romblon Island**

We are specifically looking for corporations or entrepreneurs who are:

1. Experienced in managing distribution operations, people and systems
2. Financially sound
3. Willing to manage risks and invest long-term
4. Based in areas being applied for

Interested parties may send their **letter of intent** together with the following:

1. Company and management team profiles
2. Financial documents
3. Distributor experience

Please address all communications to:

**Distributor Business Development**
**Colgate-Palmolive Phils., Inc.**
**1049 J.P. Rizal Street, Makati City**

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**VSO**

Sharing skills • Changing lives

## Do you have what it takes?

Can you live and work for two years at the heart of poor and disadvantaged communities in a different culture — like the Maldives, or Mozambique, or Kenya, or Nepal?

VSO is an international development NGO that's been recruiting volunteers in the last 40 years. If you're an experienced professional between the ages of 25 to 68 — and you're willing to share your skills where these are needed most — then be our next volunteer.

There are about 300 vacancies waiting to be filled in developing countries worldwide, in fields as diverse as:

- Community and social development
- NGO programme management
- Credit and micro-enterprise development
- Doctors, community nurses, occupational and physiotherapists)
- Teacher training
- Forestry and agriculture

If you think you can adapt and thrive in a new culture with limited resources, share your professional skills with local communities as you learn from them and deal with a wider range of responsibilities, then pick up your pen and write us now. Of course, you'd need to have an excellent command of English, too, because that is the language used in the selection process.

Volunteering with VSO means you can't expect a lifestyle similar to highly paid Filipino overseas professionals. But you do get a comprehensive package that will allow you to live comfortably in a modest way.

### Think you can do it?

Apply now. Change your life. Bring changes to others' lives.

Send your application letter and comprehensive resume to bahaginan@qinet.net or
VSO Bahaginan Programme
P.O Box 2440,
C.P.O. Quezon City

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**One of the TOP TEN CORPORATIONS in the Philippines is in need of candidates with the following qualifications in its Mindanao operations:**

- Above average scholastic performance • Good in oral and written communication • Literate in Microsoft Office like Excel, Word, etc
- Good interpersonal related skills • Willing to be assigned anywhere in Mindanao

*Interested candidates must also possess the following positional qualifications:*

### LICENSED ENGINEERS
**(Electrical, Mechanical, Chemical)**

- Male, 24-33 years old, preferably with relevant working experience as a Supervisor in Plant/Manufacturing Operations

### FINANCIAL ANALYSTS

- Male, 20-30 years old, Certified Public Accountant

### CHEMISTS

- 21-30 years old, Registered Chemist

### QUALITY ASSURANCE PERSONNELS

- 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Chemical Technology or College level or Unlicensed BS Chemistry/BS Chemical Engineering

### FORKLIFT OPERATOR

- Male, 21-30 years old, at least High School graduate
- Possesses good working knowledge and experience in forklift operation, with Professional Driver's License

### HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANTS

- Male, 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Industrial Eng'g., Psychology, Management, Behavioral Sciences or any related field

Attractive total compensation package awaits the successful candidates. Application letteers with Resumé, picture and Transcript of Records (photocopy) must be mailed to:

**P.O. BOX 80731**
**Davao City**

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

### SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- College graduate
- Preferably with experience in dealing with Hotels and Restaurants
- Aggressive

### PRINTING PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

- Between 30-35 years old
- Male
- Should have previous experience in printing presses

Send BIODATA or RESUMÉ with picture to:

**P.O. Box 557 Caloocan City**

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**Albergus Management Inc.**

Needs highly qualified applicant to be deployed in Metro Manila, Cavite and Cabuyao for the following positions:

### COST ACCOUNTANT

- Accounting graduate
- Female
- 22-40 years old
- With experience in restaurant industry
- Computer literate

### BOOKKEEPER

- Female
- 22-30 years old
- Accounting graduate or its equivalent experience
- Computer literate
- With or without experience

### RESERVATIONS OFFICER

- Female
- 22-30 years old
- Preferably BS HRM or graduate of any 4-year course
- Computer literate

### PERSONNEL CLERK

- Female
- 22-30 years old
- Graduate of BS Psychology or Behavioral Science
- Computer literate
- With at least 1 year experience

### TELEPHONE OPERATOR

- Female
- 22-30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course, preferably Mass Communication

Interested applicants may mail or bring their resumé at:

**Albergus Management Inc.**
c/o Robert R. Lamprea
#16-A Capitol Hills Rd., Old Balara, Diliman, Quezon City
*(from Monday to Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. only)*

The resumé should be accompanied with 2 pcs. 2x2 ID picture (recent/blue background), NBI or Police Clearance, Health Certificate, and Letter of Recommendation.

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**Development Academy of the Philippines**

The Development Academy of the Philippines is currently in partnership with the Department of Agrarian Reform's Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project-II as National Partner Institution for Institutional Development-Cooperative Development. The Academy is urgently in need of a highly committed professional to work as:

## AREA MANAGER

Based at the ARISP-II IDRMEC Visayas Project Management Office in Cebu City, the successful candidate will oversee the implementation of the Institutional Development-Cooperative Development activities by selected Local-Based Partner Institutions in project-assisted provinces in Region 5 and the Biliran Province. The applicant must:

- Be a graduate of a four-year course preferably in Community Development or any Social Science course;
- Have more than 5 years experience either in cooperative development, community development, or rural development;
- Have good command of Bicolano;
- Have good command of written and spoken English;
- Be proficient with MS Word, MS Excel, and MS PowerPoint.

Send comprehensive CV/resumé and cover letter by fax, mail, or e-mail to the:

**Project Manager**
ARISP-II IDRMEC
4/F DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue,
Pasig City 1600
Telefax: 6312169
E-mail: arisp2id@dap.edu.ph

Please indicate Ref.: Area Manager R5-Biliran in the cover letter/envelope or in the subject for email applications. Deadline for submission of applications is on **May 24, 2002.** We will respond only to candidates who will be invited to an interview in Manila on the last week of May. The position holder must be able to start work immediately.

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## COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

A foreign diplomatic office requires a Communications Coordinator to manage the office's written, electronic, and voice communication with the public and internal audiences. Major responsibilities include: reviewing and supervising the preparation of correspondence to government offices, attorneys and private individuals; recommending and implementing improved standard communication procedures; maintaining a library of office standard operating procedures; overseeing a small specialized portfolio of visa cases; and supervising and evaluating the performance of subordinates.

University degree is required, preferably in business, government, public administration, or a related field with at least five years management experience in public affairs, government or corporate communications. Excellent command of written and oral English is required, as is the ability to draft complex correspondence in English. Knowledge of Tagalog or other local languages helpful. Strong interpersonal skills essential. Knowledge of MS Word, Excel, Power Point, and HTML preferred.

Applicants may send their comprehensive resumé to:

**Ms. Nikka Dizon**
**Human Resources Office**
**P.O. Box 151 Manila**

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## SALES ACCOUNT-IN-CHARGE

Hayakawa Electronics (Phils.) Corp., a manufacturer of wire-harness assembly, is looking for TWO (2) COMPETENT PEOPLE to be part of our Sales and Planning Team as SALES ACCOUNT-IN-CHARGE. The position requires sales negotiation and interaction with local suppliers and overseas customers. Applicant must be:

- Male or Female
- 25 to 35 years old
- A graduate of four-year Business Course or Engineering course
- With at least three-year work experience in sales and marketing; work experience in a wire harness industry is an advantage
- With above average oral and written communication skills; skill to communicate in Japanese language is an advantage
- PROACTIVE, PEOPLE-ORIENTED, and a TEAM-PLAYER

Interested applicants may e-mail us at hrd@hayakawa.com.ph or fax us through (046) 437-1413, or submit their application letter and resumé to:

**HRDA Department**
**Hayakawa Electronics (Phils.) Corp.**
Main Avenue corner First Street, CEPZ, Rosario, Cavite

All applications are subject for screening. Please look for Tutie or Grace.

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

### BOOKKEEPERS & ACCTG. CLERKS

- ☐ College graduate
- ☐ With or without experience
- ☐ Computer literate
- ☐ Hardworking & self motivated
- ☐ Good moral character

Salary commensurate with experience

*Apply in person with resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture at:*

1030 G. Masangkay St.,
Binondo, Manila
Tels. 243-4205, 243-4207, 243-4306

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**FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING**

**KUSINART KITCHEN SYSTEM**, one of the leading manufacturers of modular cabinets is in need of highly motivated

### DESIGNERS & SALES EXECUTIVES

Preferably graduate interior designers or architects, male or female, with above average scholastic records & good communication skills.

Apply in person with complete resumé, 2x2 picture & transcript of records at 143 Kamias Road, Q.C. or call 921-9156, 922-5437, 922-6946 (fax)

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**DYNAMIC PEOPLE WANTED!**

FoodParks, a growing developer of trendy food courts & restaurants, is seeking:

**Local Store Marketing (LSM) Associate** to manage ongoing store promotions, special events, & merchandising. LSM or other mktg. exp. preferable. Fastfood exp. helpful.

**Purchasing Associate** to source suppliers & manage ordering, inventories & receiving. Restaurant or hotel purchasing exp. preferable.

Send resume w/photo to FoodParks by Raintree, attn Tina, 6/F Salustiana Ty Tower, 104 Paseo de Roxas, Makati. Tel 752-5678 Fax 893-2561

FOODparks

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**WANT A CAREER IN FINANCIAL SERVICES?**

LOOKING TO EARN MORE THAN MOST 8-5 JOBS?
COMPORTABLE DEALING WITH PEOPLE?

THIS IS A SALES JOB AND WE ARE PROUD TO SAY THAT. WE REPRESENT THE LEADING PROVIDER IN OUR INDUSTRY.
IF YOU THINK YOU ARE READY TO TRAIN AND WORK CONTACT ME AT 0917-5354959

**NO FALSE ADVERTISING. NO GIMMICKS. NO SCHEMES. JUST PLAIN HARDWORK THAT PAYS LARGE DIVIDENDS. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.**

---

An interior firm specialized in Custom Made & Office System Furnitures requires

### ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

preferably with 2-3 years working experience.
Please submit your resumé at 141 Naga Road Pulanglupa, Las Piñas City or call us at 825-6344/541-3480.

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### SALES REPRESENTATIVE

**To market high quality European Fragrances.**

Male or Female 18-25 years old. At least second year college. Apply in person (for interview). Submit resumé with 2x2 ID picture.

Unit 731 City & Land Mega Plaza, ADB Avenue corner Garnet Road Ortigas Center, Pasig City (Back of Robinsons Galleria)

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## U.S. EMBASSY PROPERTY DISPOSAL SALE

SEALED BID SALE of used US government-owned household and office furniture, appliances, office machines, communications equipment and vehicles on an "As-Is-Where-Is" basis.

The property may be inspected at the Main Disposal warehouse and the Old Commissary, Seafront Compound, US Embassy, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City on May 20-22, 2002 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 NN and 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM. Bids, accompanied by a cash deposit of at least 20% of the bid price, will be accepted during the inspection dates at the GSO Cashier located at Seafront Compound.

Please be advised that there is no vehicle access or parking available on Seafront Compound. Pedestrian access will be limited to the Roxas Boulevard gate only.

For particulars, please contact:

**Ms. Hilda M. Legaspi**
Tel. No. 523-1001 extn. 2702

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An E-Commerce Company Needs

## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS

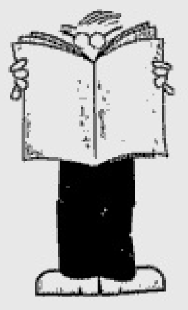
- Female, single, 22-30 years old
- Attractive and pleasing personality
- Can handle demanding clients under pressure
- Flexible work hours
- College undergraduate may be considered

Successful candidates will receive a basic salary of P12,000/month plus allowances.

Please mail your resumé, 2x2 picture and transcript of record to:

**Suite 2210 Unit 33 Building A, SM Megamall**
**EDSA, Mandaluyong City**
**Philippines 1554**

# Where you find the best.



JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CARABALLO & SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A Programme for Self-Reliance
Bayombong 3700, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax: (078) 3213611 • Tel.: (078) 3214128 or 3212605
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

CASCADE

GININTUANG MASAGANANG ANI
Go Modern Agriculture

The Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Programme (CASCADE) is seeking candidates for a position of

## Long-Term Rural Engineer

(Local Technical Assistant Status)

to provide technical support to its field operation
(as member of its Management Advisory Group)

Minimum requirement for this position are:

1. Civil Engineer or Rural Engineer (at least M.Sc. level). Certification is a plus;
2. At least five (5) years relevant professional experience (previous experience from Foreign Assisted Project will be a plus);
3. Extensive experience in the conceptualisation, design and implementation of small-scale rural infrastructures, particularly in an upland/mountain remote environment, and in the scope of small farmers
4. Previous relevant experience in a Local Government Unit environment is also sought;

Interested candidates must submit their letter of interest, accompanied by most recent Curriculum Vitaé, professional fee range and references to the address below, not later than 31 May 2002. The offered position is one of technical assistant and as such will require, by Project regulations, a quite extensive administrative selection process, so interest candidates can expect a minimum of two to three weeks before being notified of their status.

**Project Co-Directors**
**CASCADE, Bonfal West, Bayombong**
**Nueva Vizcaya**
**And/or : Fax (078) 321-3611**
**Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com**

**Note: Only short-listed candidates will be responded to.**

(PDI--May 19, 2002)

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# NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to announce the following lost Official Receipts owned by Primeworld Digital Systems, Inc. (PDSI) with the following details.

| SERIES | |
|---|---|
| START | END |
| 0288466 | 0288490 |
| 0288307 | 0288370 |

PDSI shall not honor the said official receipts and shall not be responsible or the unathorized issuance of these official receipts to the public by unscrupulous parties.

**PRIMEWORLD DIGITAL SYSTEMS, INC.**

(PDI – May 19, 2002)

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### SPEECH MAGIC

For: Koreans, Taiwanese, and other Nationalities
To be conducted by an American-trained instructors
Please call:
9254469 // 9256888 local 132
Other Services Available:
Speech magic for Beginners & Kids
Speech Magic for students
Speech Magic for housewives
Math Techniques
Math Tutorials
Reading & Compression Tutorials
Art Lesson

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## NOTICE

**Notice is hereby given that SEVEN SQUARES DESIGN PHILIPPINES, INC. Official Receipt No. 254 was lost. If found please call 930-5355; 939-3152. Contact: EDDIE HAW**

(PDI – May 19, 2002)

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PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
(PEZA)
Almeda Building, Roxas Boulevard corner Luis Street
Pasay City, Philippines

## INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority ("THE OWNER") invites sealed bids from qualified bidders for the **Design, Supply, and Installation, Including Test and Commissioning of Two (2) 25 MVA Substation Expansion Projects on Turn-Key Basis** for the following:

| | | Budget |
|---|---|---|
| Mactan Economic Zone | - | PHP 38.303M |
| Bataan Economic Zone | - | PHP 37.030M |

Tender Documents may be purchased from the ***Office of the Deputy Director General for Finance and Administration, 3rd Floor Almeda Building Philippine Economic Zone Authority; Roxas Boulevard corner Luis St. Pasay City, Philippines, Telephone Numbers: 551-3443; 891-6423, Fax Number: (632) 510-2958*** upon payment of non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) in cash by May 13, 2002.

Sealed proposals will be received by the PEZA-PBAC at the ***Office of the Deputy Director General for Finance and Administration, 3rd Floor Almeda Building Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Roxas Boulevard corner Luis St. Pasay City, Philippines*** on or before 2:00 P.M. 27 June 2002 at which time and place said proposal will be opened and read in the presence of Bidders or Bidders representatives who choose to attend. Late submission will not be accepted.

Pre-bid Conference will be conducted at the ***Office of the Deputy Director General for Finance and Administration*** at 2:00 P.M. on **29 May 2002.**

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount equivalent to two and a half (2.5%) percent of approved budget.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority will reserve the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the authority.

**PEZA-PBAC Chairman**

(PDI--May 6, 12 & 19, 2002)

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# OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPLIERS!

**A Group of Companies with own market base invites suppliers for the following:**

Basic & Prime Commodities / Groceries / Rice
Beauty & Lifestyle Products / Healthcare Products
Apparel / Shoes / Electronic Products, etc.

## Make business with us and get hold of these advantages:

> We have our own Verifone POS and payment linkage systems.
> Over 35,000 members/consumers projected to grow to at least 150,000 by year-end.
> Regional Offices situated in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao with 100 Business Centers nationwide.
> Warehouses in Metro Manila and Northern Luzon and delivery networks nationwide.
> Global expansion programs and opportunities with offices in Hong Kong and very soon in Singapore.

i-RISE CONSUMERS MART INC

Interested suppliers may send/fax/e-mail their company profile, letter of intent to supply, list of product lines, prices, and best offer (terms and conditions) addresed to:

**MR. VIC VILLENA**
General Manager
**I-RISE CONSUMERS MART, INC.**
Cellu Compound, Km. 17 Ortigas Ext. (after Ever Gotesco Ortigas, fronting BF Metals), Cainta, Rizal.
Telephone Nos. 655-2822/655-2961/655-3001/655-2805 / Telefax: 655-3108
E-mail: slag@rise-ecommerce.com / slag@risegroup.net / i-rise@risegroup.net
or
**MR. DEO ACUPAN**
Investment Manager
Telephone Nos: 687-5783 to 85

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
National Police Commission
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
PNPCS Canvass and Award Committee
Camp Crame, Quezon City

## INVITATION TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE COMPUTER SERVICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE** invites all interested **PNP Accredited Suppliers/ Manufacturers** to participate in the bidding of **1 (one) Lot Equipment in the Expansion of CPD Command and Control Facility** which consists of the following:

a. Computer Hardware/Software
b. Communications Equipment
c. Network Equipment/Installation
d. Office Furnitures/Fixtures

The detailed specification of these products will be released during the Pre-bid Conference scheduled on **Wednesday, May 29, 2002** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the Conference Room of the PNP Computer Service in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

For more details, please call up PCI Lampa at Tel. Nos. 721-8585 or 723-0401 loc. 4215/4315

(Sgd.) **PSSUPT CLAUDIO C CABREROS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -- May 18, 19 & 20, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
*METROSTAR EXPRESS*

## INVITATION TO BID

The DOTC-MRT 3 Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested bidders/suppliers to prequalify and bid for the supply and delivery of LIGHT RAIL VEHICLE HAND STRAPS for the MRT 3 with a total approved budget amounting to Php 555,000.00.

Accreditation requirements can be obtained upon payment of non-refundable fee of P100.00 to the Administrative Division, DOTC-MRT 3 Depot, North Avenue cor. EDSA, North Triangle Area, Quezon City. Submission of duly accomplished and notarized prequalification documents shall not be later than 5:00 P.M., 28th May 2002. Accredited/prequalified bidders/suppliers need not apply.

Bid documents and complete specifications are available for issuance upon payment of P500.00, which is not refundable and upon presentation of Notice of Invitation and Certificate of Accreditation.

The DOTC-MRT 3 reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids proposals without offering any reasons, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. This office, likewise, assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **MARIO C. MIRANDA**
*Acting General Manager*
*Metrostar Express, and*
*Chairman, PBAC*

(PDI--May 15, 17 & 19, 2002)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BAUANG, LA UNION

Land Reg. Case No. 70 MTC-BGLU
LRA Record No. N-74257

## NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

To the Hon. Solicitor General Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; the Director, Land Management Bureau, Escolta, Manila; the Regional Executive Director, Region I, DENR, Quezon Avenue, San Fernando City, La Union; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, P.T.A. Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, the Director, Forest Management Bureau, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, both in Quezon City, Metro Manila; the Provincial Governor, the Provincial Prosecutor, the General Services Officer, the Provincial Engineer, the Public Works and Highways District Engineer, the CENR Officer, CENRO, Land Management Sector, all in San Fernando City, La Union; the Municipal Mayor, the Municipal Council, Bauang, La Union; Mauro Perez, Aurora Puruganan, both in Paringao, Bauang, La Union; AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

An application having been filed in the above-entitled case by **SPOUSES ENGR. JOSE R. PING-AY & VICTORIA B. PING-AY**, Paringao, Bauang, La Union thru Atty. Zosimo M. Abratique, 4th Flr. Garcia Bldg., Hilltop Market, Baguio City praying for the registration and confirmation of the title to the following described land with improvement thereon.

A parcel of land (Lot 3505, Pcadm-474-D, Ap-1-01009, L.R.C. Record No. _____), situated in the Barangay of Paringao, Municipality of Bauang, Province of La Union, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the W., along line 1-2 by Lot 3504, Mauro Perez; on the N., along line 2-3 by Lot 3506, Aurora Puruganan, Psu-217488; on the E., along line 3-4 by National Road (20.00 m. wide); on the S., along line 4-1 by Lot 3504, Mauro Perez, Bauang Cadastre. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being N. 11 deg. 47'W., 4210.12 m. from BLLM No. 1, Pcadm-474-D, Bauang Cadastral Mapping.

**thence N. 03 deg.45' W., 14.65 m. to point 2;**
**thence N. 89 deg.17' E., 18.21 m. to point 3;**
**thence S. 02 deg.07' E., 14.66 m. to point 4;**
**thence S. 89 deg.21' W., 17.78 m. to the point of**

beginning, containing an area of **TWO HUNDRED SIXTY THREE (263) SQUARE METERS**. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground as PS. cyl. conc. mons. 15x60 cm.; bearings grid; date of original survey on November 28, 1974 - February 22, 1975, date of prepared on July 1, 1980 executed by Engr. Flordelino M. Ignacio and was approved on July 28, 1980.

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court at its session to be held at Municipal Trial Court, Bauang, La Union, Philippines, on the 11th day of June, 2002, at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to present such claim as you may have to said land or any portion thereof, and to submit evidence in support of such claim and unless you appear at said Court at the time and place aforesaid, your default will be recorded and the title to the land will be adjudicated and determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the Court and thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application (or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness: the HON. ROMEO V. PEREZ, Judge of said Court, the 16th day of January, 2002.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippines, this 28th day of February, 2002.

ATTEST:

(Sgd.) **BENEDICTO B. ULEP**
*Administrator*
*Land Registration Authority*

By:

(Sgd.) **SALVADOR L. ORIEL**
*Chief, Docket Division*

A True Copy:

(Sgd.) **ADELAIDA I. CARAIG**
*Chief, Publication of Notices Section*

(PDI - May 19, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila

## INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Foreign Affairs invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the rehabilitation of DFA Roofing (Apron Building, South Wing Annex, Ground Floor Canteen plus Waterproofing of Apron Roof Deck and Concrete Roof Gutters). Interested parties must submit respective company profile and list of present clients on May 22-29, 2002.

Project sites may be inspected starting 22 May 2002 to 29 May 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sealed bids will be accepted starting Wednesday, 5 June 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Project's Terms of Reference, Scope of Work and General Provisions may be obtained from the DFA-PBAC Office, Office of the Undersecretary for Administration, 12th Floor, DFA Building after payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP5,000.00 with the DFA Cashier's Office.

Bidders are required to submit bid deposit, in a separate sealed envelope, in the form of a manager's or cashier's check in the amount equivalent to at least ten (10) percent of the bid price upon submission of the sealed bids.

For further information, please contact:

Philip C. Tabula
Property, Maintenance & Transportation Division
Office of Personnel and Administrative Services
Tel. No. 834-4000 Local 4781

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN**
*Undersecretary for Administration*
*and PBAC Chairperson*

Pasay City, 15 May 2002

(PDI--May 19 & 26, 2002)

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## CECILIA LENTEJAS Vda de DINGDING

**of Tinambacan, Calbayog City Samar**

*Peacefully joined her Creator on Friday, May 17, 2002 at the age of 82.*

Her nieces **Milet, Carol, Elen, Edith, Grace**; and nephew **Tony**; together with their families request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Lot 9 Block 34, Soldier's Hills, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 21, 2002 at Everest Memorial Park, Muntinlupa City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

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# Justice Justiniano P. Cortez

**September 5, 1915 - May 17, 2002**

**Senior Board Member, Cagayan** (elected) — 1955 - 1959
**City Fiscal, Quezon City** — 1963 - 1978
**Associate Justice, Court of Appeals** — 1978 - 1980
**Provincial Governor, Cagayan** — 1980 - 1986
(Elected unopposed)

*Peacefully joined his Lord and Master on May 17, 2002 at the age of 86.*

His bereaved wife **Soledad C. Cortez**; children **Samuel** (†) and **Grace**, **Mario** and **Marita**, **Justiniano Jr.** and **Teng**, **Celia** and **Rudy**, **Jacqueline** and **Edwin**, **Gladys** and **Rene**, **Selina** and **Ray**, **Joey** and **Mary Lou**, **Alex** and **Joanne**; grandchildren **JV**, **Serc**, **Arec** and **Gaylord**, **Chitty**, **Chaqui** and **Chamboy**; **Justine**, **Carla** and **Jacob**; **Katrin**, **Paul** and **Kevin**, **Joseph** and **Jed**; **Nicole** and **JR**; **Kristen** and **Cassandra**; **Carlo** and **Byron**; great grandchildren **Jon Mark**, **Jon Walter**, **Joanna** and **Jon Victor**, and **Charlene**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 438 F. Bernardo St., Mandaluyong City.

Interment to be announced.

(Please omit flowers, instead, donations in favor of the St. Martin de Porres Charity Hospital, San Juan, Metro Manila will be appreciated)

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*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."*
*John 3:16*

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In Loving Memory
of

## JORGE MA. CUI y PERALES

*Fifth Anniversary of his birth to eternal life.*

Masses and Prayer will be offered at Mary Mother Good Council Church Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque City.

His family kindly request all pious readers to remember him in their prayers.

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*Our Beloved*

## CYNTHIA D. SALTA

**Director of the 13:22 Foundation**
Daughter of the late **Alfredo** (†) and **Pomposa** (†) **Salta**

*Peacefully joined her Creator on May 17, 2002 at the age of 52.*

Her bereaved children **Carlo** and **Jamie**; her brothers **Julius**, **Alfredo Jr.** (†), **George** and **Vic**; her sisters **Sylvia** and **Helen**. Her brother-in-law **Halim**; sisters-in-law **Annie** and **Gina**; other relatives and friends Praise the Good Lord for has brought her Home.

In her memory we remember 2 Corinthians 12:9

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

Her remains lie at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City. Cremation will be on Monday, May 20, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park Crematory Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City.

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**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:** ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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## AN INVITATION FOR A STRATEGIC PARTNER

The **PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation (PSTC)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Philippine National Oil Company and engaged in the marine transport of domestic petroleum products in the country, invites interested parties to be its **Strategic Partner in a Joint Venture Business** in shipping.

Terms of reference and list of pre-qualification documents of prospective partner may be secured from the PSTC Office, 7th Floor, S&L Building, 1500 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila.

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Lamberto C. Arenal at Telephone No. (632) 525-1292 and Fax No. (632) 524-8989 and (632) 525-8376.

The offer and/or Letter of Intent together with pre-qualification documents of prospective partner must be submitted to the above named company officer at PSTC Office at the aforementioned address not later than closing of office hour on **May 31, 2002.**

PSTC reserves the right to accept or reject any and all offers or parts thereof, to waive any formality therein or to accept such offer or part thereof which is considered most advantageous to the Company or to the government.

**PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation**

(PDI – May 18 & 19, 2002)

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# NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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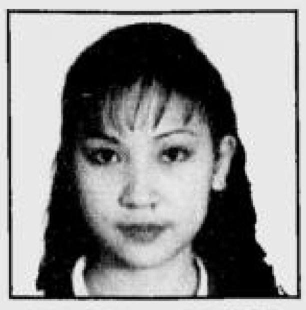
The Company management recently uncovered a fraudulent scheme involving some of its collectors, officers and employees that resulted in the loss of several hundred thousand of dollars in unrealized profits due to unlawfully "diverted" deliveries of used/disposed inkjet cartridges. It is for this reason that we wish to advise our other collectors, customers, concerned government agencies and the general buying public that the following employees, whose pictures appear herein above, have been terminated for cause as of 23 November 2001, to wit:



**RAQUEL ABIVA**
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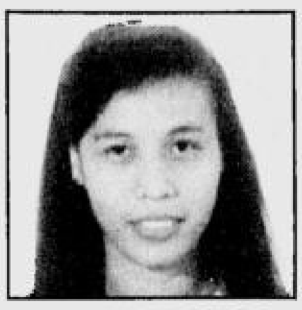
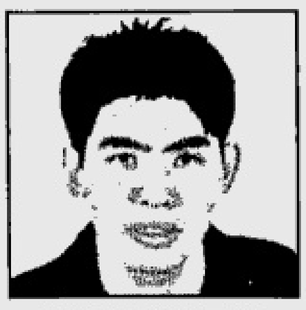
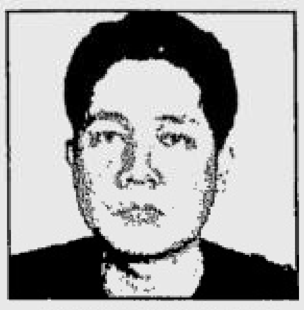


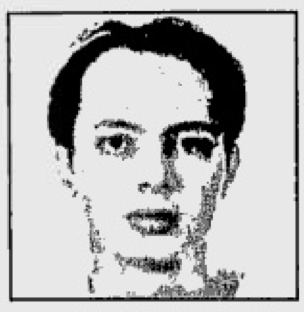
**JAZMIN MOTOS**
Finance/Audit Manager



**JESUS MOTOS**
Messenger



**JASON GARCIA**
General Helper



**RICHARD LOPEZ**
Collector

The corresponding civil case for damages and criminal case for qualified theft have also been filed and are now pending before the RTC-Olongapo City. In view of the foregoing, any transactions entered into by the foregoing individuals on behalf of Printing Images, CtC, Inc. shall no longer be recognized by the Company as of the aforesaid date. Any person, corporation or other entity dealing with them is hereby cautioned to exercise utmost prudence. There is reliable information that they have misrepresented themselves as duly authorized representatives of Printing Images, CtC, Inc. They have also set-up their own company selling re-manufactured cartridges using technology stolen from Printing Images, Inc. The Company cannot warrant the quality and workmanship of these spurious products. Please direct information regarding these activities or any queries regarding the foregoing matter with the undersigned.

**Printing Images, CtC, Inc.**

(PDI – May 19, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
National Capital Region
U.N. Avenue, Manila

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority, National Capital Region, U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila invites all interested qualified integrated cargo handling services contractor to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of integrated cargo handling services (Vessel-to-door delivery) in the discharging of 170,000 MT, more or less, of NFA imported rice at the South Harbor, Port of Manila.

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

| | | DATE | TIME |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Issuance of Pre-C forms | May 19 - June 11, 2002 | 12:00 NN |
| 2. | Pre-Bidding Conference | May 27, 2002 | 10:00 AM |
| 3. | Bidding Proper | June 11, 2002 | 2:00 PM |

Pre-C Forms, Terms and Conditions, List of Requirements may be secured at the Office of the Assistant Regional Director, NFA-NCR, U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 starting **May 19, 2002 at June 5, 2002** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Other inquiries may be addressed to the Office of the Assistant Regional Director, at the above address with telephone numbers **523-9452** and **564-2071** to **74 local 123.**

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities or defects found therein, and to accept only such bids as are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) ROMEO B. JIMENEZ
*Assistant Regional Director*
*Chairman, Bidding Committee*

(PDI - May 19 & 26, 2002)

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Repubilka ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

**Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim**
**Office of the Undersecretary**

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education through the Payroll Services Division is inviting all manufacturers/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for 4,000 bxs. Tabulating Stock Forms, 5 ply, 11 x 14 7/8, graylines with both sides perforation, 70 gsm for the first ply and 56 gsm for the second to fifth ply. The approved budget for the project is P2,900,000.00

All interested manufacturers/suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting **May 22, 2002** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Room 112-A, Mabini Building, DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd website at http://www.deped.gov.ph

A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 30, 2002**, 2:00 PM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on June 13, 2002, 10:00 AM at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO S. PANGAN
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI – May 19 & 26, 2002)

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## INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR BOT FOR THE BWD COMPREHENSIVE BULK WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (BWD-CBWSP)

The Baguio Water District intends to engage the services of local and/or foreign consulting firm for the preparation and packaging of the Terms of Reference for the Comprehensive Bulk Water Supply Project.

Interested firms are invited to submit an expression of interest and details of their capabilities and related experience by forwarding their names and address and properly identified as "LETTER OF INTENT AND PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR BOT UNDER THE BWD COMPREHENSIVE BULK WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (BWD-CBWSP) to the following address not later than **JUNE 7, 2002.**

**CHAIRMAN**
**Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC)**
**Comprehensive Water Supply Project (CWSP)**
**Baguio Water District, DPS Compound, Baguio City 2600**

Consultant's Prequalification Forms and additional information may be obtained at the above address.

BWD-PBAC (CBWSP)

(PDI – May 19 & 26, 2002)

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Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
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Mr. Eduardo Ty
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Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018
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Candelario Enterprise
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Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel Nos. (053) 325-6743/321-2054
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OMNI General Merchandise
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Pabayo-Pacana Streets
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel Nos. (08822) 722-530
(088) 856-5253
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122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
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Cotabato City
Tel Nos. (064) 421-3264/421-8611/
(064) 229-7089 (Lollet - Secretary)
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Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Santos Building, Gov. Duterte Street
Davao City (fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel Nos. (082) 226-4406/221-3379/
221-3424/226-2931

Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel Nos. (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920
General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel Nos. (083) 301-8731/301-6244
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Edmar News - Advertising Agency
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Marlen's Variety Store
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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

## INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION AND BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payment under the contract for which this invitation for qualification and Bid is issued.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission as the Executing Agency and the City Government of Makati and City Government of Manila as the Implementing Agencies are inviting CONTRACTORS to apply for Qualification and Bid for the following linear park packages:

| Contract Package | Contract No. | Area | Location | Contract Duration | Project Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. Makati DES Park (Package A) | EPA-LPP-08 | 4,763 sq.m. | Barangay Poblacion, Makati | 150 Calendar days | Linear Park and Promenade |
| b. Barangay Valenzuela (Package B) | EPA-LPP-09 | 1,879 sq.m. | Barangay Valenzuela, Makati | 90 Calendar Days | Linear Park and Promenade |
| c. South Nagtahan Linear Park (Package C) | EPA-LPP-10 | 1,944.87 sq.m. | Barangay South Nagtahan, Manila | 90 Calendar Days | Linear Park and Promenade |

The work consist of three (3) separate contract packages. Bidders may bid for any one, two or all three contract packages ranked according to their preference, but award will be limited to two per bidder.

A bidder, who is already evaluated as an awardee in one (1) contract package, can only be awarded the subsequent package if his remaining financial bid capacity is equal or greater than his bid for the package, and if his bid is the lowest complying bid.

If a bidder has been evaluated as an awardee for two (2) packages, his bid for the subsequent package shall be returned unopened.

In the event that the lowest bidder is not qualified for the award due to insufficient financial bid capacity, the contract package shall be awarded to the next lowest complying bidder, at the cost of the next lowest complying bidder.

Interested contractors will be required to submit their accomplished qualification documents and bid proposals at the same time in two (2) separate sealed envelopes. The envelope containing the bid will be kept in a sealed box, which will not be opened until after the completion of the qualification evaluation, and the list of qualified contractors has been finalized. Only the bids of qualified contractors will be opened on the date of bid opening. The bids of disqualified contractors will be returned unopened.

Interested contractors may obtain furthern information and secure the qualification and bid documents at the following address:

**Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC)**
**2nd Floor Engineering Building**
**MWSS CMPD., Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City**
**Telephone Nos. 433-3444/ 433-3446/ 926-5233/ 926-5234**

A complete set of qualification and bid documents may be purchased by interested contractors from the above address on 22-29 May 2002 upon submission of a letter of intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) per contract package.

Site Inspection and Pre-Bid Conference is on 5 June 2002, 10 a.m. at the Conference Room, PRRC office. The accomplished qualification documents and the bid in two (2) separate sealed envelopes must be submitted to the PRRC on or before 1200 hours on 5 August 2002. The date of bid opening will be announced later.

The contractors shall submit together with qualification documents a notarized sworn statement stating their project workload as of date of bidding, including newly awarded but not yet started contracts with corresponding contract amount.

All particulars relative to Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award Contract shall be governed by the ADB Procurement Guidelines and other pertinent laws and regulations. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which will be the most advantageous to the government. The decision of BAC is final and binding.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ**
*Executive Director.*

(PDI--May 19 & 26, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**
**CENTRAL OFFICE**
**Bids and Awards Committee**

## INVITATION FOR BID

Loan No : 1396-PH(SF)
IFB No. : ICHSP-2002-003TE

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Health (DoH) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INTEGRATED COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT (ICHSP), and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the supply and delivery of Telecommunications Equipment.
2. The Department of Health desires to procure the Goods described the itemized in the Bid Document through International Shopping in accordance with the applicable guidelines of the ADB, and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of ADB for the supply and delivery of Telecommunications Equipment.

**SCHEDULE OF BID ACTIVITIES:**

| ACTIVITIES | DATE | TIME |
|---|---|---|
| Issuance of Bid Documents | May 21, 2002 | |
| Deadline of Issuance of Bid Documents | July 9, 2002 | |
| Pre-Bid Conference | June 14, 2002 | 10:00 AM |
| Deadline of Submission of Bids | July 10, 2002 | 10:00 AM |
| Opening of Bids | July 10, 2002 | 10:01 AM |

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), POP II Warehouse Bldg., San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

   Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder at this address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PhP 5,000.00) in cash. For foreign bidders, cost shall be ONE HUNDRED FIFTY US DOLLARS (US$150.00) plus mailing fee of FIFTY US DOLLAR (US$50.00) in the form of a bank draft issued separately to the DoH.

   A pre-bidding conference will be held on the scheduled date at the NEC Conference Room, Bldg. No. 9, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
4. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of Total Bid Price and must be delivered in accordance with the Instruction to Bidder's on or before deadline of submission of bids, and will be publicly opened at the above stated time and date at the NEC Conference Room, Bldg. No. 9, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
5. The Department of Health reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to DoH and to local health units.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
*Assistant Secretary of Health and*
*Chairperson, COBAC*

(PDI--May 18 & 19, 2002)

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**Republic of the Philippines**
**Department of Labor and Employment**
**Overseas**
**Workers**
**Welfare**
**Administration**

## RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility screening and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the performance of STRUCTURAL VERIFICATION TEST on the OWWA Center Building. Total approved budget for the project is Php 1,170,000.00.

The works to be performed in providing structural verification tests, consists of:

01. **Soil Investigation** (Standard Penetration Test, Determination of Water content, Atterberg Limits Test, Particle Size Analysis and Permeability Test)
02. **Destructive Testing** (Chipping-off, Concrete Coring and Compressive Strength Testing, Steel Sampling and Tensile Strength Testing)
03. **Non-Destructive Testing** (Rebound Hammer Test and Covermeter Test)
04. **Miscellaneous Exploratory Works**

Prospective bidder opting to bid for partial or one (1) or two (2) items only will automatically disqualified.

Related bidding activities are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| a. Submission of Letter of Intent | - June 03, 2002 |
| b. Submission of Requirements For Eligibility | - June 05, 2002 |
| c. Notice of Eligibility (eligibility/ineligibility) | - June 11, 2002 |
| d. Distribution of Bid Documents | - June 14, 2002 |
| e. Site Inspection | - June 18, 2002 |
| f. Pre-Bid Conference | - June 20, 2002 |
| g. Submission and Opening of Bids | - June 28, 2002 |

The OWWA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and accept the offer most advantageous to the Administration. OWWA assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For more information please call at phone number 833-1013 or 833-1010.

(Sgd.) **MR. RUSTICO SM. DELA FUENTE**
*Chairperson, OWWA PBAC*

(PDI--May 19, 20 & 21, 2002)

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__May 28 (Tuesday)__
**Developing Personal Mastery**
ERNIE O. CECILIA, President, EC Business Solutions and Career Center

"Personal mastery" is the phrase Peter Senge, author of "The Fifth Discipline, used for the discipline of personal growth and learning. He wrote that people with high levels of mastery are continually expanding their ability to create the results in life they truly seek. In this session, Mr. Cecilia will discuss the meaning and importance of personal mastery and the principles and practices which lay the groundwork for continually expanding personal mastery.

__May 29 (Wednesday)__
**Increasing Your Emotional Intelligence for Workplace Results**
JOSEFINA O. SANTAMARIA, President, Career Systems, Inc.

Most experts now agree that those who climb the corporate ladder most quickly are those who possess a high degree of emotional intelligence or EQ. EQ is the ability to make your emotions work for you by using them in ways that produce the results you want. And the good news is, EQ can be developed and dramatically increased. Ms. Santamaria will give an overview of emotional intelligence and provide a hands-on guide that people can use to amplify their own emotional intelligence.

__May 30 (Thursday)__
**Building Synergy for Organizational Excellence**
LIRIO O. MAPA, Vice President, Center for Leadership and Change, Inc.

Synergy comes from the Greek work *synergos* which means an interaction in which the total effect is greater than the sum of the individual effects. In the competitive world of business, mere cooperation is no longer enough to achieve a leading edge. An organization should have synergy to ensure organizational excellence. Ms. Mapa will explain synergy and its critical role in enabling organizations to become great companies. She will outline the steps on how organizations can build synergy to sustain peak performance.

### SPECIAL SEMINAR for CEOs, CFOs, HR EXECUTIVES

*(Every 6 paid registrations entitles your company to one free seat to this seminar.)*

__May 30 (Thursday)__
**2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
**Measuring Return on Investment (ROI) on Human Capital**

NORMAN RAMION, Asia Pacific Leader for Employee Research and Diagnostics, Mercer HR Consulting

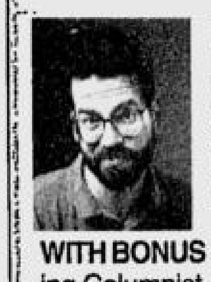
Organizations are now more able to manage investments in human capital in a way that can have a measurable impact on business performance. The objective is to measure and identify causal relationships in the value chain: from specific human capital choices and practices that characterize an organization, to the various consequences (positive or negative) of those choices, to business results as measured by sales, net profit, total shareholder return, etc.This talk will focus on cutting edge developments in the area of measuring the ROI of human capital practices as demonstrated by actual case studies.

**SUBSIDIZED REGISTRATION FEES:** P250 (balcony), P300 (orchestra) and P350 (patron), Early bird discount of 10% for paid registration before May 13, Limited discounted balcony tickets for teachers, gov't. employees (25%) & students (50%)

**TIME: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

VENUE for all sessions: Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1
Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila.

### AUGUST: WORKING WOUNDED/ BOSS SURVIVAL GUIDE SERIES



**BOB ROSNER: AUTHOR -** Working Wounded: Advice That Adds Insight to Injury; The Boss's Survival Guide; **SYNDICATED COLUMNIST; CREATOR** of the award-winning Working Wounded web site; **CONSULTANT** to Fortune 500 companies
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 nn **12 Steps to Better Bossing**
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **The Working Wounded Survival Guide**

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**FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER**, call **414-0186, 414-0587**, e-mail **optima@edsamall.com.ph** or go to the office of **OPTIMUS MANAGERS & ADVISORS, INC.**, 2nd flr. Benjamin I Bldg., 62 Sgt. Esguerra St. cor. Mo. Ignacia Ave. (across ABS-CBN), South Triangle, Quezon City. Or visit the web site **www.match.ph** and click on the People at Work Live! banner ad.

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You may secure Checklist of Pre-Qualification Requirements from Mr. Ed Duque, Office of the Vice President, Cultural Center of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Tel. Nos. 832-3680 or 832-1125 loc. 1101.

Deadline for submission of requirements is on Wednesday, 29 May 2002 until 6:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) DENNIS N. MARASIGAN
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(PDI -- May 17 & 19, 2002)

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This is to inform the public that **Ms. Lydia "Jeth" R. Leyva**, with last known address at **Blk. 7 Lot 4 Casimiro Townhomes, Las Piñas City**, has ceased to be connected with **SOUTHWOODS APPAREL INC.** effective May 6, 2002.

Any transaction entered into by the above named person in behalf of SOUTHWOODS APPAREL INC. after the said date shall not be honored by the company.

(PDI--May 19, 2002)

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PRAYER TO HOLY SPIRIT Holy thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my idea thou who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Amen. Pray for 3 consecutive days without stating ones wish after the 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as you favor has been granted S.B.P.

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INQUIRER
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By BONG BARRAMEDA

### First Vandals

A wilful destroyer of property is called a vandal after the Germanic tribe of Vandals, who invaded and dominated the western Mediterranean in the 5th century A.D. Under their ambitious king Genseric, an army of 80,000 Vandals recklessly plundered Rome in 455. Genseric's son, Hunneric, who succeeded him in 477, was even more ferocious but attacked mainly Christians, stealing the treasures and sacred vessels of the Church. The Vandals were finally conquered in 536 and vanished without a trace, but their name lives on.

*Ooops!* *Graffiti* is the English word for those inscriptions, slogans, or drawings scratched or scribbled on a wall, etc. in a public place, often toilets. *Graffiti* is a plural noun; the singular is *graffito*. Hence, to say, "Graffiti is the most common form of juvenile vandalism" is incorrect. Incidentally, officials of ancient Rome had an effectively way of discouraging citizens from scrawling graffiti in public toilets. They painted pictures and symbols of the gods on the walls, making their defacement not merely a civil but religious offense punishable by death.

**WORD WATCH**

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PDI—May 19, 2002

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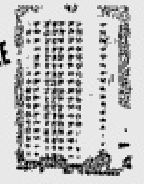

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MARTIN and Hello Kitty with longtime Hello Kitty fan Carmina Villaroel present a surprise birthday cake to Veronica Hosmillo.

"GET A GIFT, GRANT A WISH." Throwing up your leis ensures your wishes will come true.

# Granting a wish, aloha style

By Pam Pastor

GIFT Gate, which has been part of many children's lives, has taken things a step further. As the first corporate partner of Make-A-Wish Foundation in the Philippines, Gift Gate will help children make their dreams and wishes come true.

Last Sunday, the partnership made its debut with an authentic luau party right in the middle of SM Megamall.

Guests came in Hawaiian-inspired outfits and were given fresh leis and Hawaiian names. Polynesian dancers in hula skirts, live parrots and tortoises (direct from Kinder Zoo, where else?), exotic plants and centerpieces, plus fruits galore gave a very tropical feel to the occasion.

### Tropical feast

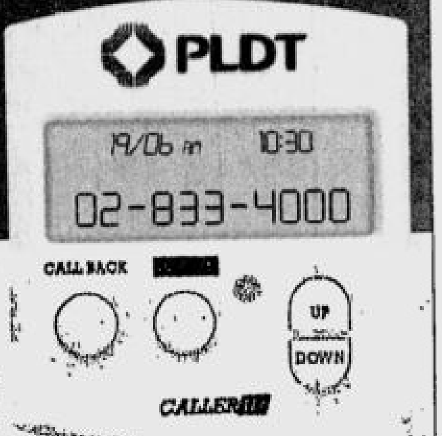
The luau feast was served on cue of the familiar rhythmic sounding of Polynesian

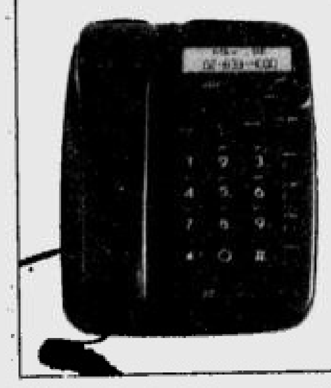
GRANTING/ p.C4

EVER radiant Swatch Babe Sarah Meier

Gift Gate, with Make-A-Wish Foundation, will use proceeds from selected items to make wishes of terminally ill children come true

GIFT Gate's Virgie Ramos is flanked by SM's Harley Sy and Makati Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin.





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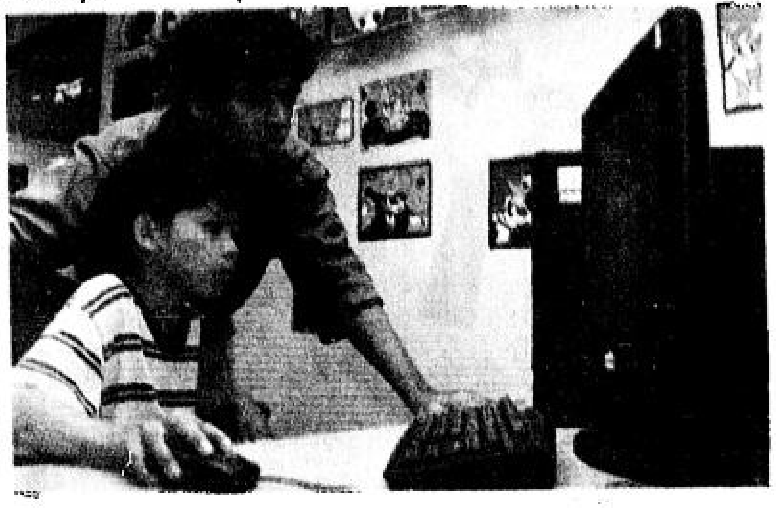
# Center lets youthful creativity flourish

**By Cathy Babao Guballa**
**Photos by Randy Hormillosa**



**MENTORING** the young is a fulfilling activity.

REM-ANGELINE Bustria and Tristan Bringas are two animated sixth graders from East Rembo Elementary School with a passion for Adobe Photoshop, a computer program that enables the user to edit and enhance photographs. "*Pagkatapos ko magtinda ng almusal sa umaga tumutuloy na ako dito,*" Tristan says. "*Gustong-gusto ko dito kasi madami akong natututuhan at madaming nagiging kaibigan,*" Rem- Angeline adds. *Dito*, is the Intel Computer Clubhouse (ICC) on the second floor of the Mater Dolorosa Parish Church, a stone's throw away from Bringas' and Bustria's elementary school. Both children aspire to become computer engineers, a dream that may become possible one day with their determination and a little help from Intel.

Young children, who used to roam the streets after school, now sit transfixed in front of the PC creating new worlds and seeing their dreams come true

**ICC members and their mentors in front of the Computer Clubhouse.**

Last Friday, Intel Corporation and the Ayala Foundation opened the clubhouse. A worldwide project of the Intel Corporation, ICC departs from the traditional after-school programs that concentrate on homework and tutorials. The ICC model is based on supporting learning through design experiences; helping youth build on their own interests and creating an environment of respect and trust. At the clubhouse, young people aged 10 to 21 have access to high-tech equipment and mentoring to develop skills that open up opportunities, encourage self-confidence and foster creativity. Two more clubhouses are set to open later this year.

**REM-ANGELINE Bustos and Tristan Bringas work at their station.**

Craig Barrett, Intel chief executive officer, said, "Technology access is only the first step in (crossing) the Digital Divide, not the end solution. We want to provide young people in underserved communities with mentors, resources, skills and experiences that will help them use technology meaningfully and succeed in life."

Housed in a 120-square-meter, air-conditioned room, ICC is a haven of learning for eager young minds. There are 13 workstations with 17-inch colored monitors, a station for video editing, a music studio and a sign-in personal computer (PC). Use of the facilities is free of charge. Young people who go to the clubhouse have to fill out an application form and are assigned a slot that allows them to use the PC for three hours at a set time and day each week. "*Minsan nga araw-araw kami nandito. Naghihintay na lang ng bakante kung walang available na* PC," says Rem-Angeline. Bringas says that the wait here is better than in their school where hundreds of students have to wait for their turn to use one of 16 PCs. "*Minsan nga, di na nakaka*-rotate *yung klase namin.* So sorry *na lang,*" he shrugs and grins. The clubhouse has certainly been a welcome change to these young people who used to spend most of their after-school time in front of the television set, at the pool hall, playing counterstrike or playstation. Computer games are not allowed at the clubhouse as they do not exactly foster creativity.

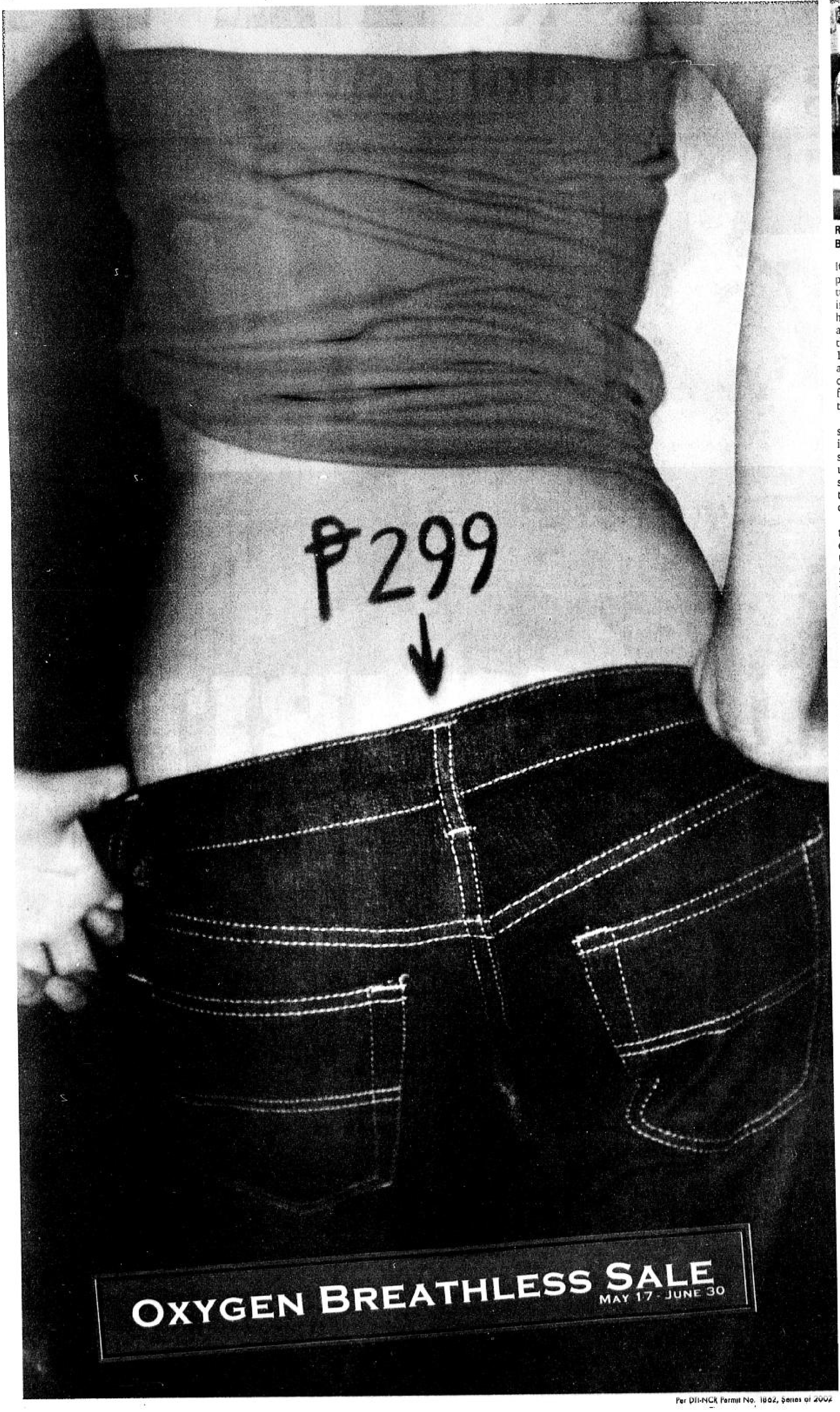
### Creativity blossoms

Currently ICC has 279 registered members, half of whom come from the neighboring East Rembo and Tibagan Elementary Schools. Young people who go to ICC learn by doing. They create digital artwork, produce their own music CDs, film, write and edit their own short movies, and design websites. Ludwig Artus, a soft-spoken 12-year-old whose father works abroad and whose mother is a barangay employee, likes to tinker with the Mixman and Acidpro programs at the PC station that doubles as a VJ's booth. "My favorite program though is the Terragen software," Ludwig says. The program that enables one to create his own landscape or terrain appeals to the young man's creativity. "*Kasi para akong nakakagawa ng sarili kong* world," he smiles.

The clubhouse at Mater Dolorosa is supervised by Maui Salang, an AB Economics graduate from the Ateneo de Manila University who has a passion for teaching children. Salang finds great fulfillment in helping these children. "When you teach them and see them do well, that's really rewarding," Salang says. The people behind the clubhouse hope that the young people who go there will stay and flourish. "In the U.S. where Intel has built

CENTER/ p.C3

**INTEL Computer Clubhouse coordinator Maui Salang**



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1862, Series of 2002

LUDWIG Artus makes like Beethoven.

# Center lets youthful creativity flourish

From page C2

clubhouses in poorer communities, many lives have been changed for the better," Salang points out.

Assisting her in mentoring the young people who go to the clubhouse are volunteers who teach the children the rudiments of the various programs. "We are still in need of volunteers to help us mentor the children and they really don't need to be techies. What we'd like to have is a diverse group with interests in music, video editing or simply a sincere desire to help young people," Salang adds. An upbeat atmosphere pervades throughout the clubhouse. "We're not regimented here," Salang says. That morning, Pinoy pop music blared from the speakers of one workstation, a group of boys made like Spiderman in one corner and shot the scenes on a video camera. At the music booth, an aspiring DJ and his mentor tried to mix sound and music to create a composition. Laughter, smiles and creativity abound in an educational atmosphere where young children, who used to roam the streets after school, now sit transfixed in front of the PC creating new worlds and seeing their dreams come true.

*Contact the Intel Computer Clubhouse at 881-3185 for volunteer mentoring opportunities.*

*Email the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph*

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**BEST GROUP IN COSTUME AWARDEES.** Dennis Valdes and kids Ty and Anika bonding with a pawikan (above). Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and son Luca visiting with cockatoo.

Gift Gate
presents
Aloha Kitty

**ALOHA KITTY!** Kids model the latest fashion collection from Hello Kitty and Dear Daniel.

ROGER CARPIO

# Granting a wish, aloha style

From page C1

drums. Guests enjoyed the ultra-Hawaiian food whipped up by chef Jessie "Ka Haku" Sincioco. Le Soufflé waiters served Fresh Medium Pineapple with Turnip, Carrots and Celery in Asian Creamy Dressing, Sweet Potato and Taro Chips, Le Soufflé Ciabatta and Bread Rolls with Special Dip, Spam Sushi, Vegetarian Sushi, Chicken Curry, Vegetable Curry, Hawaiian Rice and Sam Choy's World Famous Fried Marlin Poke in a bed of Bean Sprouts, Shredded Red and White Cabbage. The kids enjoyed Poke Tuna Patties, Mochi Mochi Chicken and Barbecued Pork Ribs. Topping off the meal were Häagen-Dazs Macadamia Nut Ice Cream and Macaroons. The macaroons made up for their tiny sizes by being sinfully delicious.

Benetton international model Rissa Samson hosted a game that tested the linguistic skills of the crowd.

Gift Gate endorser Martin Nievera and Swatch Babe Sarah Meier hosted the event. Swatch Hunk Troy Montero and PBA Talk N Text's Asi Taulava were pulled from the audience, asked to wear grass skirts and cajoled into dancing the hula. They broke far too many hearts by being so cooperative.

Then came the stars of the afternoon, the suntanned Hello Kitty and Dear Daniel, who sang and danced and delighted the crowd.

Six-year-old artist Pianne Sinfuego, whose paintings will be featured soon in a children's book that will be published by Gift Gate under the "Get A Gift, Grant A Wish" program, was also at the party.

**NATIONAL** Bookstore's Socorro C. Ramos and Gift Gate's Virgie Ramos take time to pose with two feathered friends from the KinderZoo.

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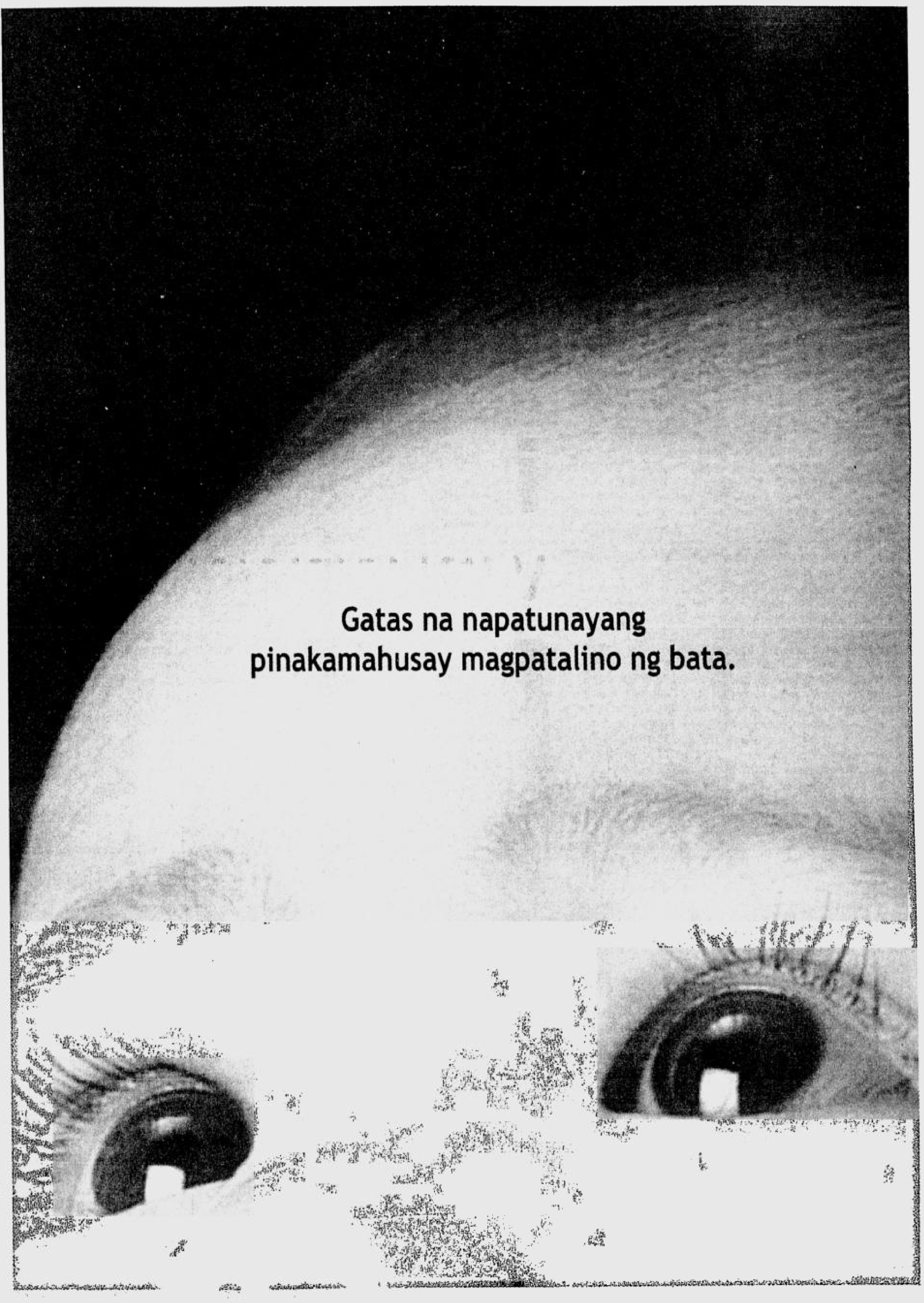

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**Ang Gatas ng Ina.** Ito ang gatas na may likas na ***DHA & AA, Iron*** at ***Nucleotides.*** Ang gatas na may pinakamahusay na nutrisyong nagpapaunlad sa kaisipan ng sanggol. Ito ay pinakamagaling na gatas. Dahil taglay nito ang lahat ng bitamina't sustansyang kakailanganin ng iyong sanggol para lumaki siyang malusog, matibay at matalino.

Pangarap mo bilang isang magulang na bigyan ng magandang kinabukasan ang iyong bagong-silang. Kasama mo ang Wyeth sa pakay na ito. Sapagkat, noon pa man, sinusuportahan ng Wyeth ang iyong hangarin na bigyan ng tamang nutrisyon ang iyong sanggol.

Kung ano ang ibahagi mo sa iyong sanggol ngayon ay siyang huhubog sa kaniyang kinabukasan. Kaya't mula sa mga unang sandali ng kanyang buhay, bigyan mo siya ng iyong gatas.

Wyeth
Nutrition

Wyeth supports
the Breastfeeding Campaign
of the Department of Health.

*In cooperation with the Philippine Daily Inquirer*

BIRDS of Paradise and other tropical flora-and-fruit centerpieces complete the island theme. ROGER CARPIO

### Birthday wish

Veronica Hosmillo, who has been diagnosed with leukemia, was asked onstage where Sanrio collector Carmina Villaroel presented her with a birthday cake. Martin led everybody in the singing of the birthday song.

The Saturday before Veronica had celebrated her 14th birthday with a lunch at Hello Kitty café and a shopping spree at Gift Gate. And to think her simple wish was to have "many stuffed toys."

It wasn't just a lunch actually but was a birthday party of sorts. Veronica had a Hello Kitty cake and her family enjoyed a feast of pasta and chicken. After lunch, the group went to Gift Gate for Veronica's shopping spree.

"She was given a minute to get all the stuffed toys she wanted. We even prepared

GRANTING/ p.C6

**HELLO Kitty chocolate masterfully prepared by Le Soufflé chef Jessie Sincioco**

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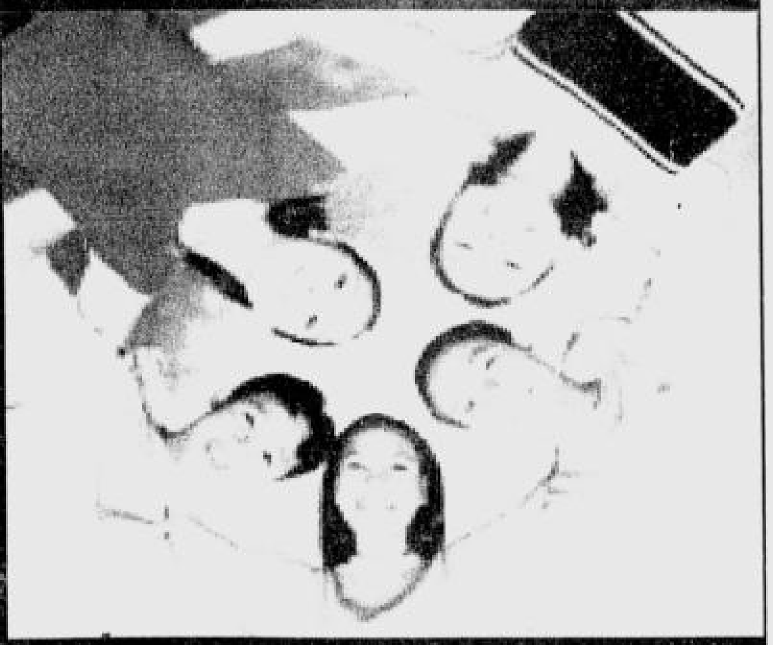

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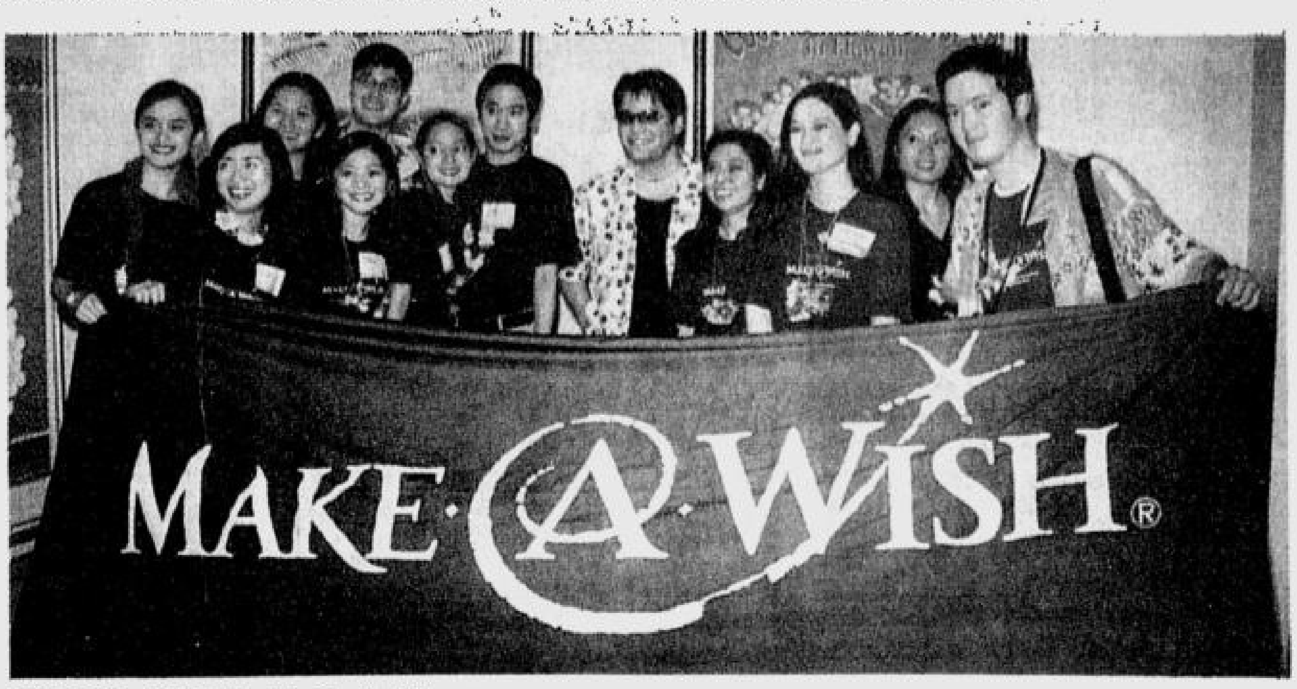
presents
a Kitty

ASI Taulava and Troy Montero braving a hula dance session. ROGER CARPIO



MEMBERS of MAWF with Martin Nievera ROGER CARPIO

# Granting a wish, aloha style

From page C5

her by asking her to [decide beforehand] what she wanted *para hindi siya mataranta,"* said Mari Swa, the wish coordinator. Veronica went home with four huge shopping bags full of toys. According to the nurses in East Avenue, the wish grant, which had been arranged with the help of Liza Vengco, ad and promo manager of Gift Gate, did great things for Veronica. She used to be a shy child. Now she has come out of her shell and is even joining activities.

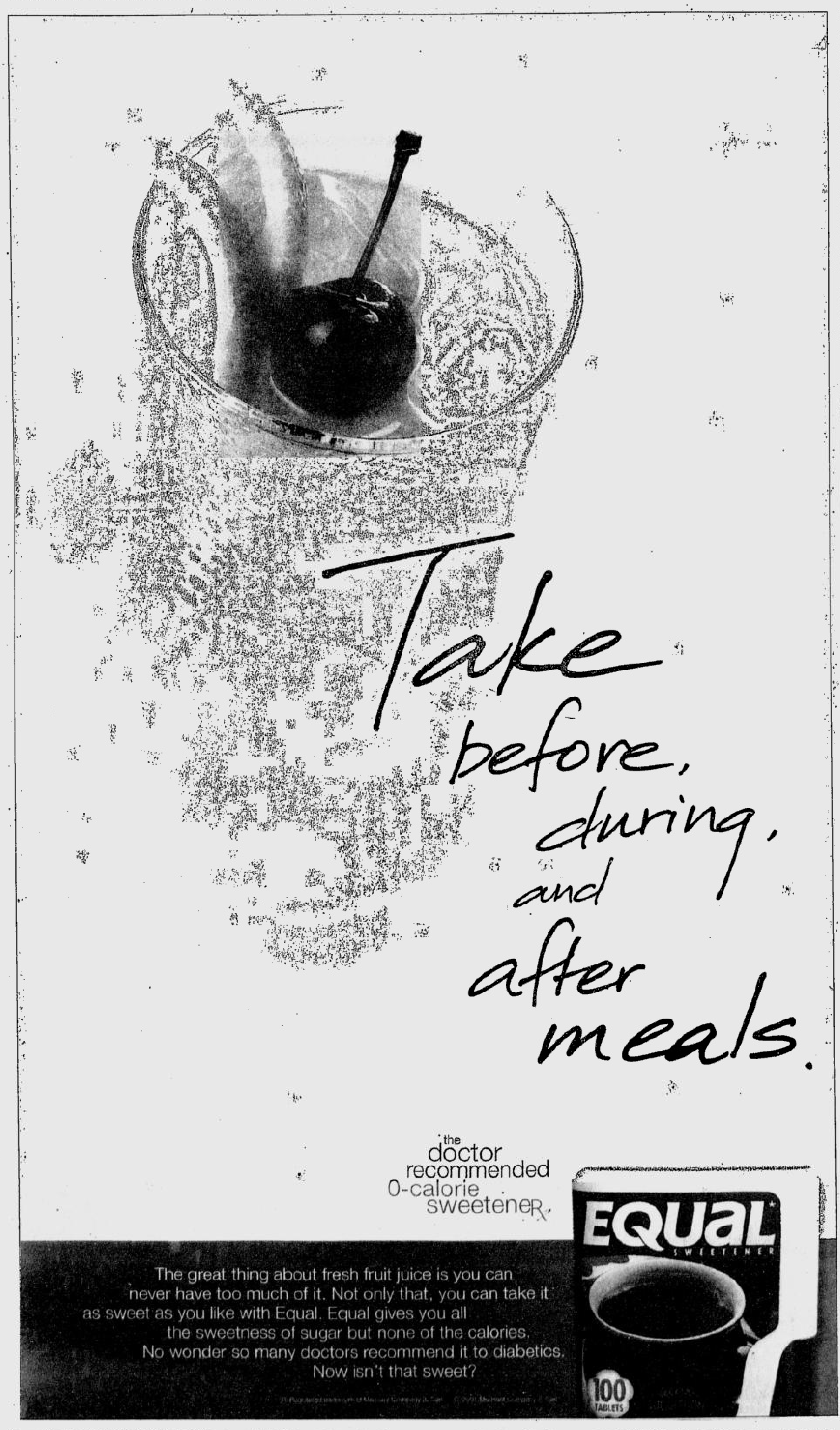
Gift Gate has formally launched a yearlong program dubbed "Get a Gift, Grant a Wish." For a whole year, proceeds from selected items sold at Gift Gate boutiques will go toward making wishes of terminally ill children come true. The first item to be sold was the Aloha Kitty Gift Bouquets.

The Aloha Kitty Character Live Show tours nine SM Supermalls until June 2 and features the suntanned Hello Kitty and Dear Daniel in a musical show. The Manila production of the event is directed by Rowell Santiago for the benefit of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

*For more info on the Make-A-Wish Foundation, visit www.bestwish.org, e-mail wish@bestwish.org, call 817-73-87, fax 817-73-95 or visit Unit 108, Narra Building, 2276 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City*

**DOMESTIC TOURISTS.** Gift Gate's lawyer Miguel Ramos, lawyer Abby Binay and Edi Tekeli

**MEDIA FUN.** Rissa Samson and Patricia Barcelon doing the hula-hoop with Mons Romulo-Tantoco (below).



The great thing about fresh fruit juice is you can never have too much of it. Not only that, you can take it as sweet as you like with Equal. Equal gives you all the sweetness of sugar but none of the calories. No wonder so many doctors recommend it to diabetics. Now isn't that sweet?

penshoppe

Grace Penales, Account Manager
Aries Espinosa, Editor

A GLIMPSE of the first and only Filipino fashion apparel store in Xiamen, China.

# Filipino specialty store expresses itself in China

By Marlet D. Salazar

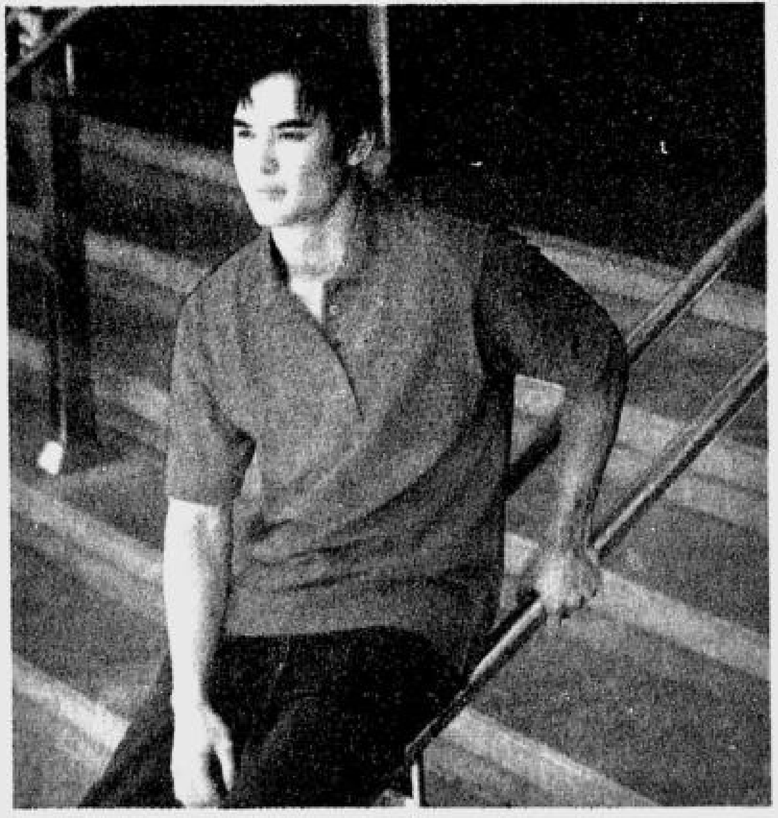
**THE VISIONARY.** Bernie Liu is known to set high goals and see them materialize. -RANDY HORMILLOSA

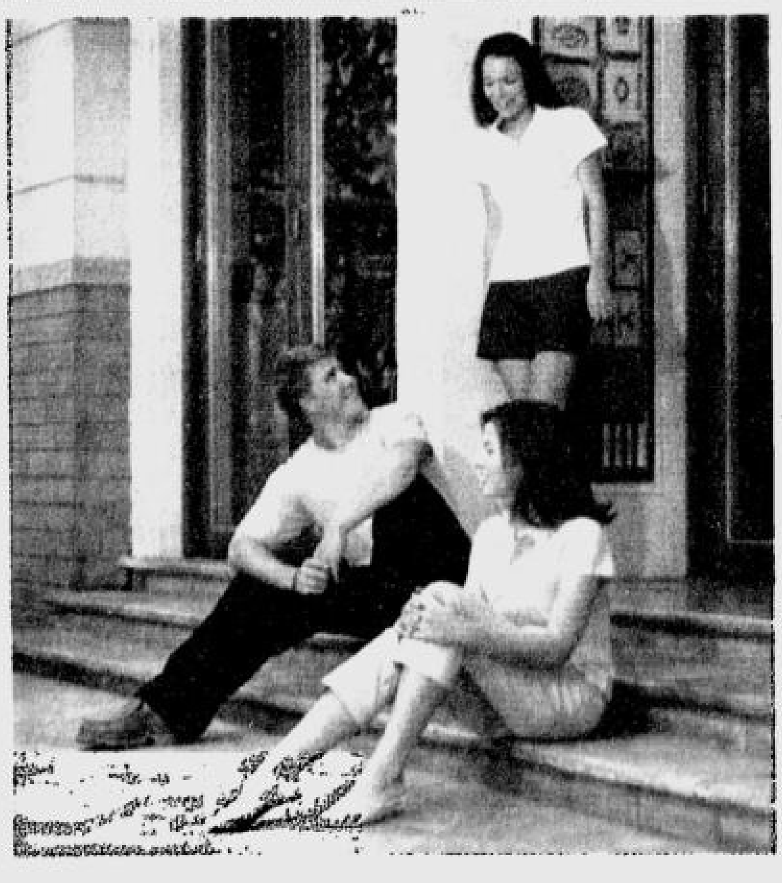
> "Penshoppe is world-class. And Filipinos are world-class."

"PENSHOPPE is world-class. And Filipinos are world-class." Indeed.

Imagine the Chinese youth swarming in a Filipino specialty store fitting shirts and jeans which just few years ago were known only to Pinoy youth. Picture them walking the streets of Xiamen, China with "Penshoppe" emblazoned on their shirts. Think of strolling in a foreign land enjoying yourself when suddenly you come across a familiar Filipino brand.

Yes, Golden ABC's signature brand Penshoppe, the hip youth fashion apparel, has expressed itself in China. On April 28, 2002 it opened its first branch in Xiamen. The voice of Bernie Liu, CEO of Golden ABC Inc., reverberates with pride—and humility as well—when he relates the tale of Penshoppe's entry to the world market. We always had the vision to go international," Liu said. They drew inspiration from other Filipino companies who have made it to the international market.





The Chinese are known to be more inclined to wear formal clothing Penshoppe being a casual brand aims to create an impact on Chinese youth who like in most countries are influenced by the West.

The vibrant architect from Cebu, Liu is known to set high goals and see them materialize. The entry of Penshoppe coincides with China's entry to the World Trade Organization. Just two years ago, Liu was talking of the company's long-time dream of creating an international fashion apparel brand. Now that dream has come true.

In November last year another Filipino company, ShoeMart, offered Penshoppe a slot in their mall in Xiamen, China. The two-day ocular visit resulted in a rigid but exciting six-month preparation stage. Taking the risk, Liu felt that 16 years of Penshoppe has prepared them for this. He also believed that Divine Providence made success possible. "Divine Providence showed us the way," he beams.

Penshoppe had been jammed with offers in the past to sell their products outside the Philippines, but they declined because they felt they were not yet ready at the time. The Xiamen opening meant the green light to venture to other countries. At present Golden ABC., Inc is already negotiating franchising in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Also during the opening day, they received at least two more offers in Xiamen, China. "We don't want to rush. We have to be very, very sure," Liu said. He also has his sights on establishing Penshoppe in Southeast Asia, with prospective countries like Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

## The irresistible 1 billion

But entering the Asian market was no easy task. The language barriers, difference in cultures, labor laws, as well as training Chinese employees were just a few of the many hurdles they triumphantly conquered. The prospect of catering to China, one of the biggest markets in the world, was enough inspiration for them to try to beat the odds.

Penshoppe was established in Cebu in 1986. Imagine a garments business operating outside of Luzon and eventually penetrating the national market. Since then, Penshoppe has grown with 400 stores in the country.

Liu was bestowed the Agora Award for outstanding achievement in entrepreneurship by the Philippine Marketing Association in 2000. Last year, he was a recipient of the Philippine Jaycees Association's much-coveted award as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) in the Philippines.

Liu also commends his Filipino managers for the success of this new endeavor. Despite the difficulties, they proved that nothing is impossible. He relates that these Filipino talents trained the new Chinese employees on how customer service works, managing the shop and other essentials in running a specialty store.

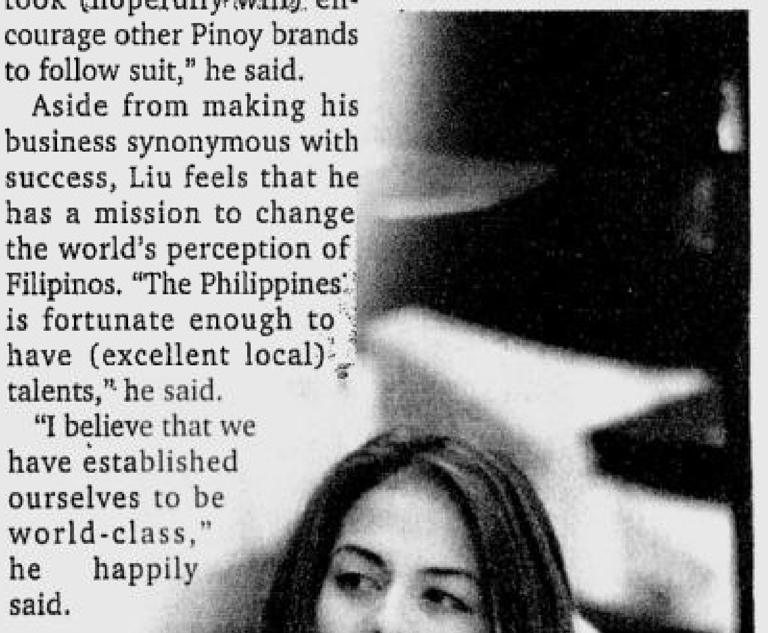
## Penshoppe inspires

Liu shares Penshoppe's breakthrough with the Filipino people. "I believe that it will make us all proud. It's something that we thought was just a dream for us," he said.

The visionary is known to set very high goals and see them materialize through hard work and a positive attitude. He wishes to be the inspiration for other Filipino brands. "The risk we took (hopefully will) encourage other Pinoy brands to follow suit," he said.

Aside from making his business synonymous with success, Liu feels that he has a mission to change the world's perception of Filipinos. "The Philippines is fortunate enough to have (excellent local) talents," he said.

"I believe that we have established ourselves to be world-class," he happily said.



**YOUTH FAVORITE.** See for yourself why Penshoppe is preferred by the young.

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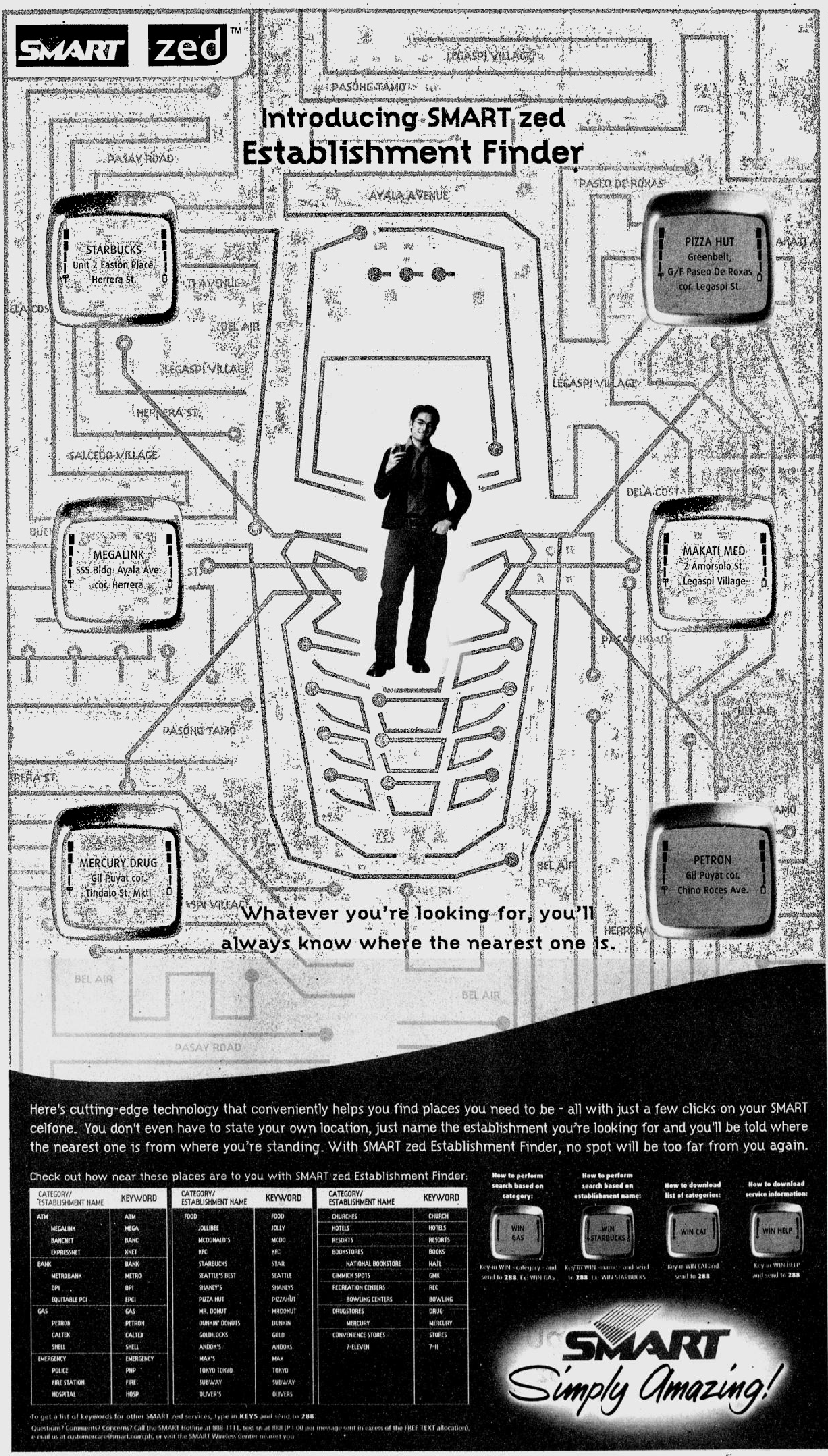
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| METROBANK | METRO |
| BPI | BPI |
| EQUITABLE PCI | EPCI |
| GAS | GAS |
| PETRON | PETRON |
| CALTEX | CALTEX |
| SHELL | SHELL |
| EMERGENCY | EMERGENCY |
| POLICE | PNP |
| FIRE STATION | FIRE |
| HOSPITAL | HOSP |

| CATEGORY/ ESTABLISHMENT NAME | KEYWORD |
|---|---|
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| JOLLIBEE | JOLLY |
| MCDONALD'S | MCDO |
| KFC | KFC |
| STARBUCKS | STAR |
| SEATTLE'S BEST | SEATTLE |
| SHAKEY'S | SHAKEYS |
| PIZZA HUT | PIZZAHUT |
| MR. DONUT | MRDONUT |
| DUNKIN' DONUTS | DUNKIN |
| GOLDILOCKS | GOLD |
| ANDOK'S | ANDOKS |
| MAX'S | MAX |
| TOKYO TOKYO | TOKYO |
| SUBWAY | SUBWAY |
| OLIVER'S | OLIVERS |

| CATEGORY/ ESTABLISHMENT NAME | KEYWORD |
|---|---|
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| HOTELS | HOTELS |
| RESORTS | RESORTS |
| BOOKSTORES | BOOKS |
| NATIONAL BOOKSTORE | NATL |
| GIMMICK SPOTS | GMK |
| RECREATION CENTERS | REC |
| BOWLING CENTERS | BOWLING |
| DRUGSTORES | DRUG |
| MERCURY | MERCURY |
| CONVENIENCE STORES | STORES |
| 7-ELEVEN | 7-11 |

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

# China revisited, blessings rediscovered

**By Grace Shangkuan Koo, Ph.D.**
*Contributor*

MY husband and I first visited China in 1982. Twenty years hence, after having brought our children to travel extensively with us to so many parts of the world, we thought it was time they visit the country of their grandparents. The major reason for this delay had been the concern for hygiene and sanitation, a top consideration when deciding where to travel with children.

We arranged our private family tour directly with China International Travel Service in Hong Kong. Booked in five-star hotels, inclusive of three hot meals daily, a private van, a tour guide and a driver, the trip took us to six cities (Hangzhou, Nanjing, Shanghai, Beijing, Xian and Guilin) in 15 days by air and train. In the sunny weather of springtime, the trip was structured excellently as time was maximized. But we were given much freedom to enjoy the trip at our own pace.

It would be futile to describe the sights. It has always been the insights that made me appreciate, time and again, the value of travel, rediscovering ourselves and the blessings we easily take for granted.

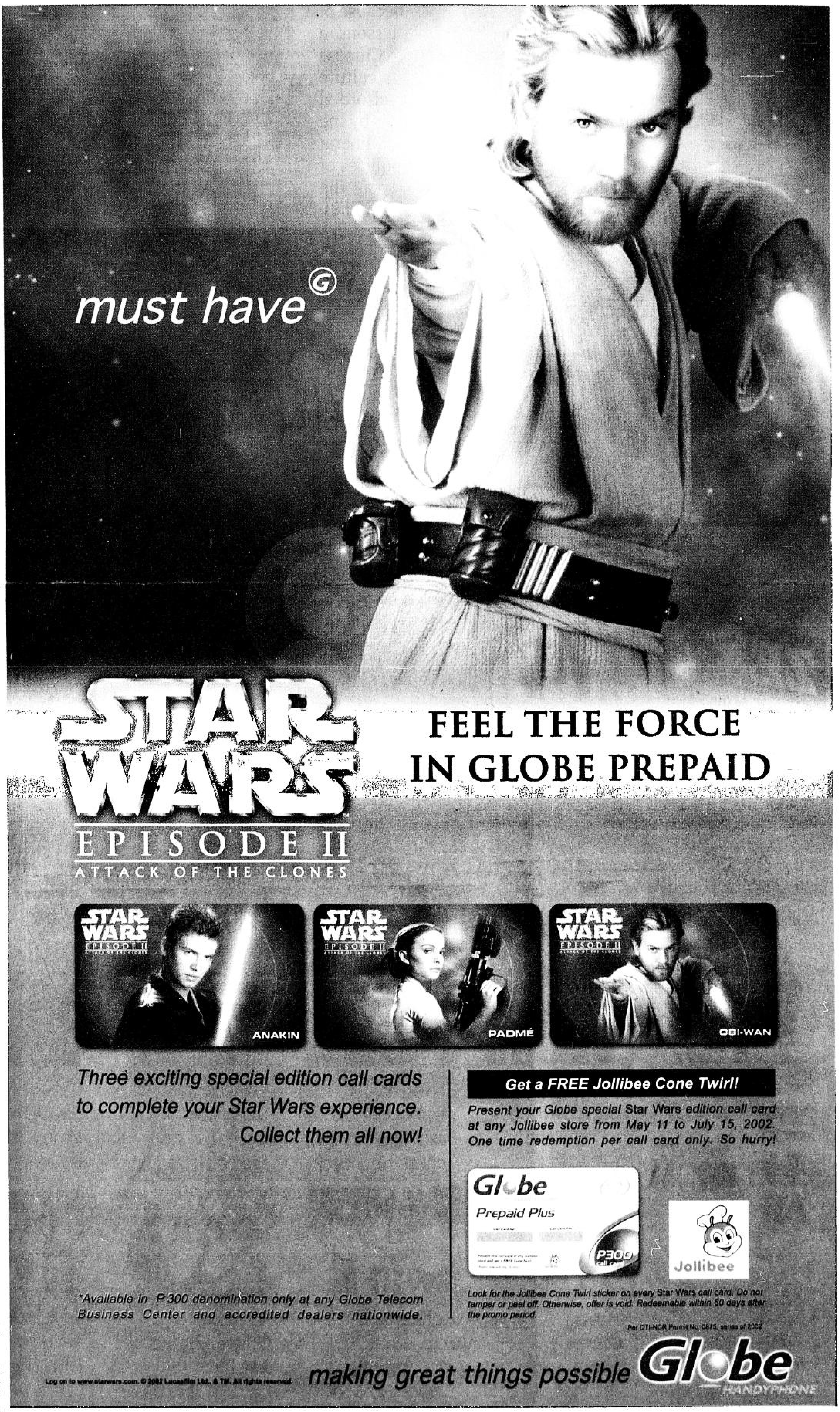
## One-child policy

The first remarks our tour guide in every city would say was: "How good it is to have two children—a boy and a girl!" The guide pointed out that the Chinese word for good, *hao*, is composed of two characters—girl and boy.

With around 1.3 billion mouths to feed in a territory where only 15 percent is arable, China has enforced the one-child policy since the mid-'70s. A second child would mean stiff penalties, even loss of job! Farmers are exempt from this policy, if the couple has a girl for the first child. Even the affluent need to go to great lengths to file an application to have another child. And when a child is born, his or her "residency account" based on his father's, will restrict him to where he can be given work in the future.

In the Philippines, couples can decide how many children they want, where to

CHINA/ p.D2



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# China revisited, blessings rediscovered

> 'I have come to appreciate China more because of lessons in Chinese culture afforded by the liberal policies of the Philippines'

From page D1

work, what school to send their children to, when to relocate for better opportunities. We have been given these freedoms, but should we not be better educated for wiser judgment, coupled with a stronger sense of responsibility?

### Worship and learn

China had banned religious activities for a long time. The reopening of churches and temples has attracted worshippers in droves.

While in Shanghai one Sunday morning, we decided to take time off our itinerary to attend a worship service at the International Church, the place where former US president Jimmy Carter also worshipped when he visited China.

Told by our friend that, to get a seat, we should be there an hour before the service, we went to the church early only to find it nearly full. For an hour, the worshippers waited while praying, reading the Bible, copying the Scriptures by hand. When the service started, the congregation was as eager as at the start of Olympic games! They sang and prayed with much passion and fervor.

Back in Manila, it is not uncommon to see worshippers coming in late by half an hour, or even later. When the latecomers sashay in as if they were giving the church a favor, the attendees get a little welcome distraction. We could use a few lessons from traveling and appreciate how people from other lands yearn for things that were dreams not so long ago, things that we have always been blessed with, be they the freedom of assembly or freedom to learn.

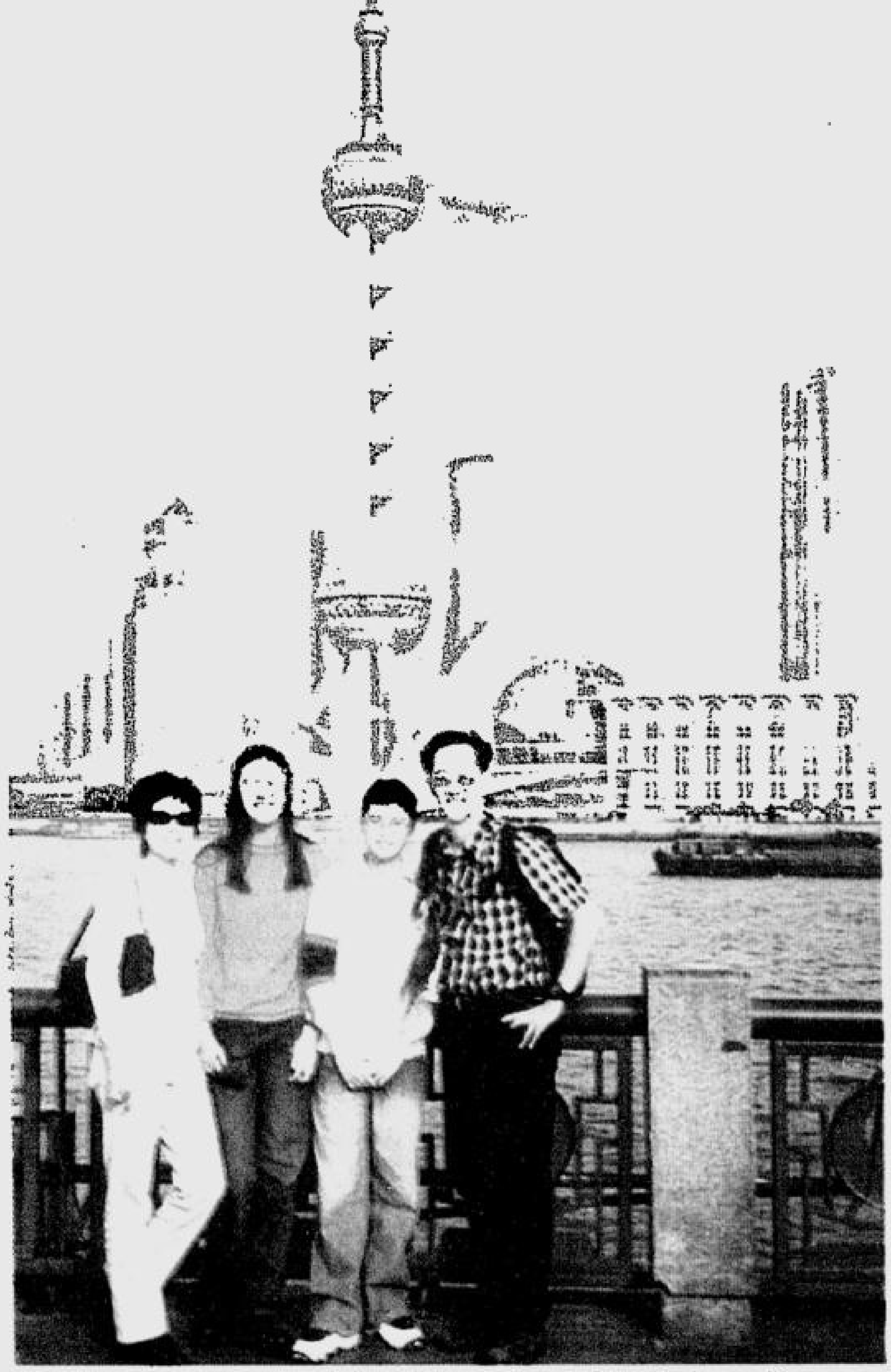
When we visited Children's Palaces, weekend and after-school centers where kids were given virtually free lessons in painting, calligraphy, *er-hu* (two-string instrument), dance and theater, my daughter remarked with unbelief, "Why, Mom, they look so eager to learn!"

### So near yet so far

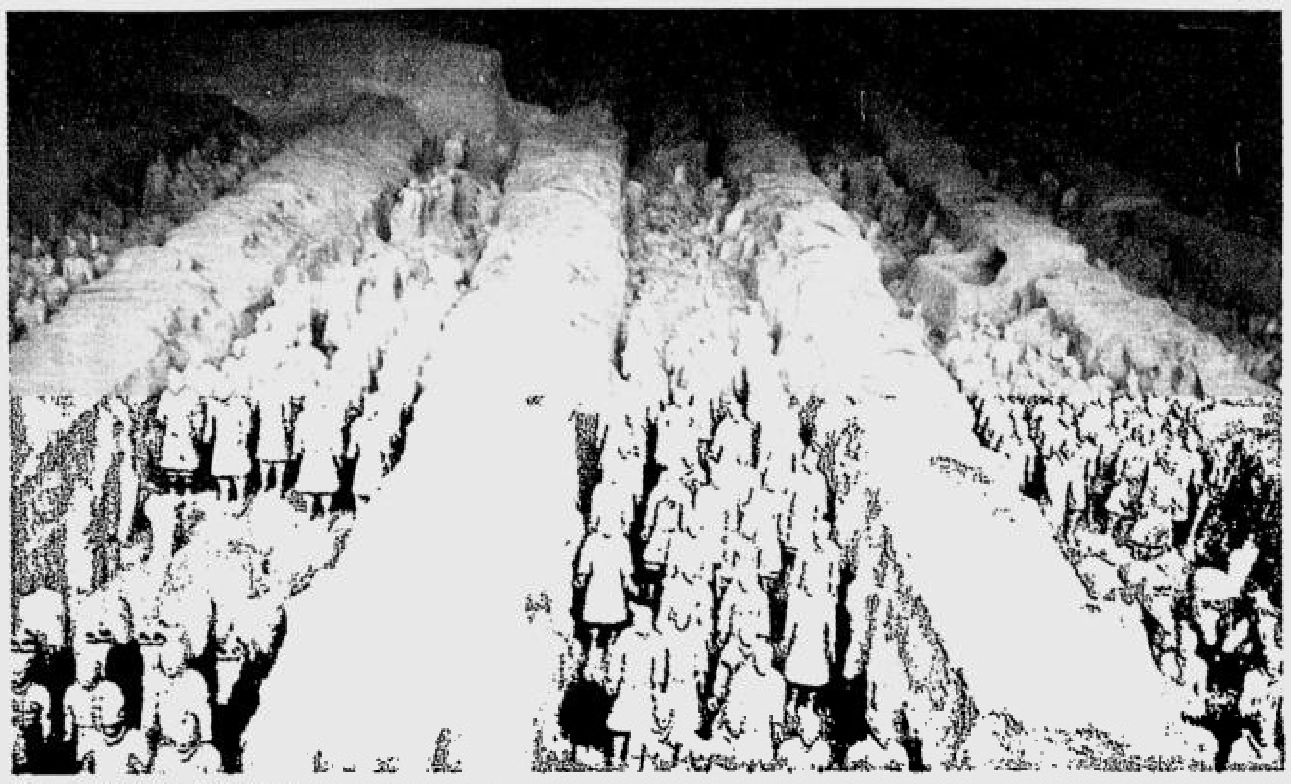
My husband and I put our kids to school where they can learn some Chinese. We have not been very pleased with their Chinese proficiency—a far cry from my own level, which in turn is barely satisfactory from my parents' standards.

This trip was designed to get my kids a chance to familiarize with the language. A strange thing happened! While singing in the church, I was intently listening to how far my

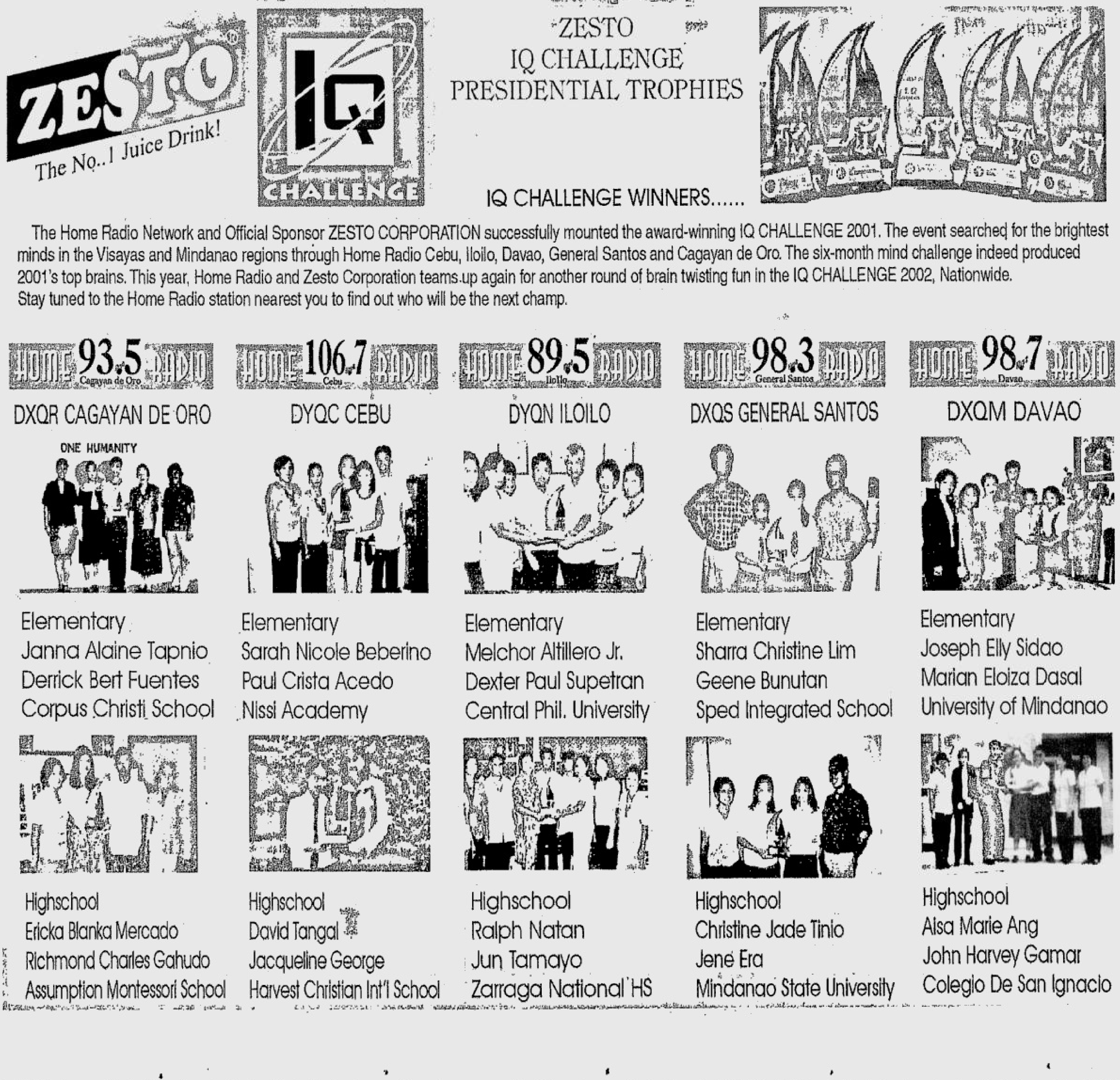
CHINA/ p.D4



**SOARING** skyscrapers in Shanghai's skyline make for a fabulous background for a photo of the author and her family.



**THE PUZZLING** terra-cotta warriors of Xian



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Paul Crista Acedo
Nissi Academy

Highschool
David Tangal
Jacqueline George
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DYQN ILOILO

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Zarraga National HS

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Jene Era
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Ten years ago, Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI) gave birth to a different kind of baby: KIMBIES® disposable diapers! This amazing baby had long-been awaited by mothers who clamored for a diaper that provided the dryness of disposable diapers and the comfort of cloth. KIMBIES® Belt-Style answered that need and more. It has a reusable adjustable belt that allows KIMBIES® to fit perfectly, a high-cut leg design to keep babies cooler and at the same time allowing them to move freely. In 1992, four kids were among the first to experience the comfort of KIMBIES®. Now, in 2002, the moms (dads, titas and lolas) of these four kids who used KIMBIES® a decade ago are one in greeting K-CPI's baby: "HAPPY 10th BIRTHDAY KIMBIES®!"

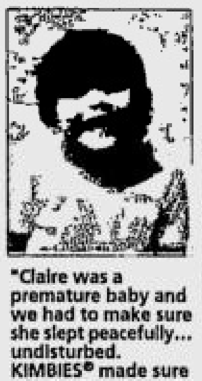
Let's hear what else they have to say about KIMBIES® as they look back...

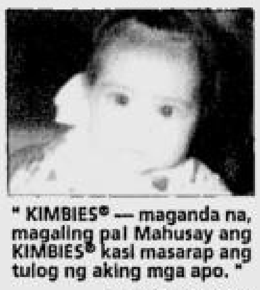
**"Maselan ang balat ni Regine kaya kailangan hindi siya nagkaka-rashes. Buti na lang may KIMBIES® — nakakatulong ka talaga sa mga babies!"**

— Tess Angeles on niece, Regine

**"I switched to KIMBIES® kasi napansin ko okay ang pagtulog ni Adrian kapag gamit niya ito. KIMBIES® has been a part of our lives and we have no regrets about it. I am happy that we were a part of KIMBIES®' 10 happy years.**

— Elvie Armamento on son Adrian Philip





**"Claire was a premature baby and we had to make sure she slept peacefully... undisturbed. KIMBIES® made sure of that. Ang galing talaga ng KIMBIES®... affordable pa."**

— Tony de Castro on daughter, Claire

**" KIMBIES® — maganda na, magaling pa! Mahusay ang KIMBIES® kasi masarap ang tulog ng aking mga apo. "**

— Ester Cerbo on grandchildren Trisha and Renz

To thank the loyal moms and dads for their continued support, KIMBIES® is giving a big anniversary blow-out treat guaranteed to surprise them — isang "Balik Orig Presyo Blowout!" This is a price rollback like no other — from May to July 2002, moms and dads can buy KIMBIES® at its original price back in 1992.

KIMBIES®' 10th anniversary blowout — one great reason to celebrate as we look forward to more babies getting the KIMBIES® brand of comfort and more moms enjoying its budget-friendly price.

Happy 10th Birthday KIMBIES®!

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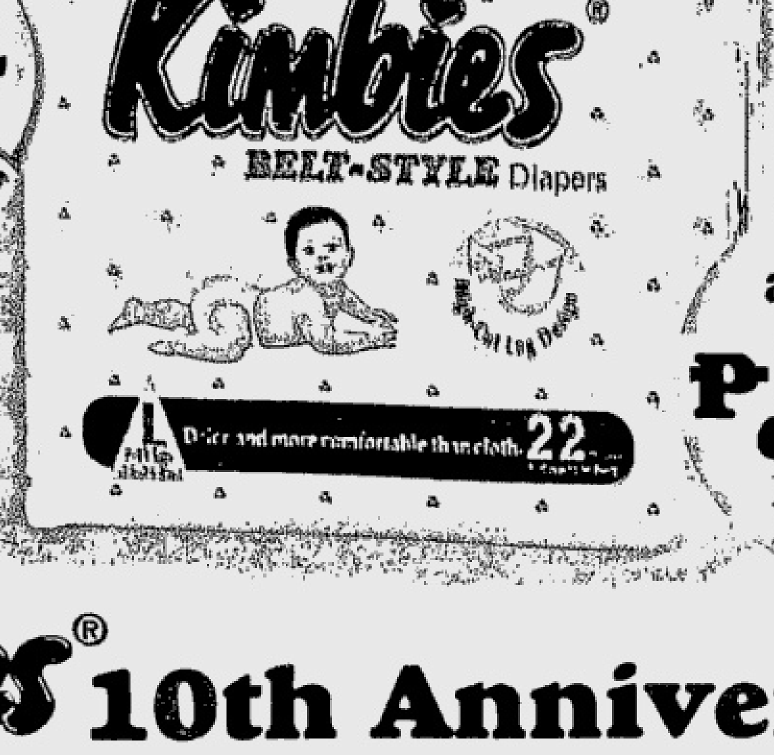
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Kimbies® 10th Anniversary Balik Orig Presyo Blowout!

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1682 SERIES OF 2002.

**THE DAZZLING** dance and music of the Tang Court

**TOTS** in Tiananmen Square

# China revisited, blessings rediscovered

From page D2

daughter would handle the Chinese lyrics. She surprised me with a passable grade!

On my right, however, a local resident from a rural town was not singing at all. Thinking that she had lost her page, I tried to help her find it. She told me rather shyly that she was illiterate. What irony! My daughter who had not been to China before and had not shown much interest in the Chinese language was able to read, while the Chinese lady, who had been in China all her life, was not able to participate in the song! So near, yet so far!

People around the world associate Tiananmen with the infamous incident of 1989. Walking along the square one day, I asked our tour guide, an intelligent 24-year-old Beijinger, how much he knew about the pro-democracy movement.

He said he was then a grade-school student and school was closed for a week. His parents did not report for work and that was it. No CNN or BBC news, no foreign newspapers to inform the Beijingers what was happening in Beijing. Here in Manila, we received blow-by-blow media accounts and commentaries, such that the faces and voices of the student leaders had become familiar. Although we should ask further, What had happened to these leaders? Shipped or slipped to the West, many of them had forgotten the cause for which their followers also suffered.

### Long history

China is a proud nation. It does not fail to remind people of its long history.

We met a French tourist from Paris, a professor in wine, who was giving a lecture in Shanghai. He had just visited the Shanghai Museum and was taking a quick lunch before going back for a second visit.

So impressed was he with the blue-and-white porcelain, he said the French who are proud of their china should know better. "Look, thousands of years ago, the Chinese were already so sophisticated in their chinaware." Coming from one who suggested that only a weeklong visit to the Louvre is adequate, the compliments did make me take a harder look at what were more or less similar antiques!

As high-school students, we were made to memorize the Chinese dynasties and kings, provinces and capitals, poets and poetry, battles and treaties—now almost a blur. This China trip made the characters and places come alive again, with the able narration of our tour guides and the firsthand look at the arts and artifacts—the legacy of an ancient culture.

The Shanghai acrobatics was simply breathtaking, the Tang Court music and dance dazzling, and the terra-cotta warriors in Xian a puzzle. The Forbidden City was a sprawling walk-in museum. The Hangzhou silk was fit for the Empress, and Longjing tea, incomparable. The Guilin *karst* formations along the Li River were magnificent, as was the view from the breezy green hills of the Sun-Yat-Sen Mausoleum, and the Great Wall climb was truly a test of stamina and determination!

China's long history is also a story of much suffering. The memorial to the Nanjing Massacre is a macabre spectacle of Japanese atrocities! Previous visits to the Holocaust memorials in Israel and Europe had not prepared me to the gruesome display of mass graves of skulls with bullet holes, names, pictures and stories of the victims. In six weeks, around 300,000 men and women, old and young, were axed to death, strangled and shot, raped and mangled.

This was not a popular tourist spot as it was probably too revolting to Western tastes. We requested this visit and it remains one of our most moving experiences.

### Courtesy and comfort

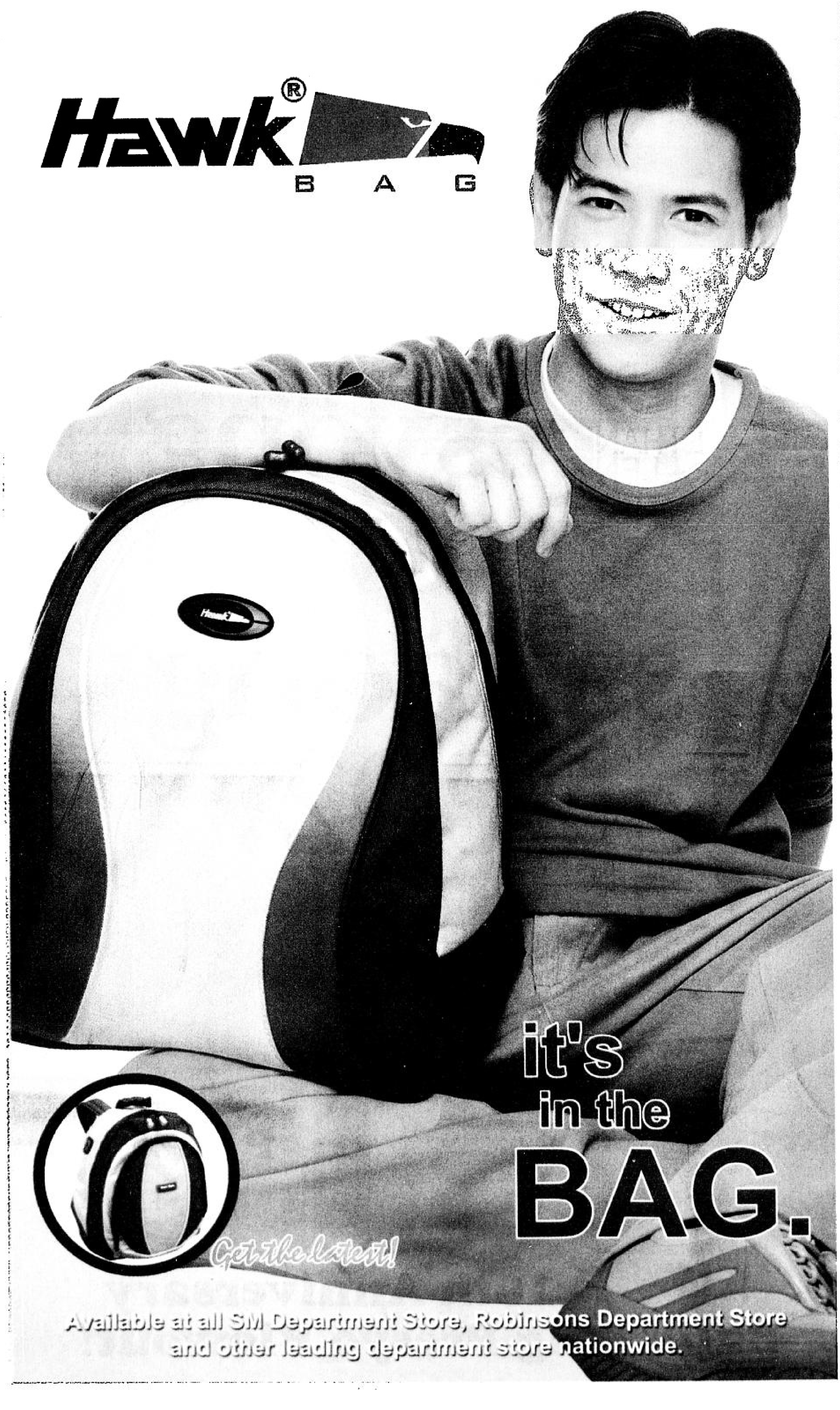
What has changed in 20 years? For one, our anxieties over the sanitation situation were assuaged. In fact, like five-star hotels displaying their rating, public toilets now show the tourism ministry's rating, such as three-star, etc.

A plus for tourism is improved courtesy. The tone and expression of stewardesses, guides, sales clerks, even street folks, have greatly improved.

For instance, a lady stepped on my toe and I was surprised when she turned to me and apologized profusely! These are encouraging signs. If these continue, I might just find myself visiting China more often.

It is a wonderful realization that what made it possible for me to appreciate this trip more fully were the years of opportunities of taking up classes in Chinese history and literature, a gift afforded to us, Chinese-Filipinos, by the open-mindedness and liberal educational policies of the Philippine government.

*E-mail the author at grace@koo.org*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"Pick 'n' Pay" happens in Leisure Farms Tagaytay, a 116-hectare agro-tourism and hobby farming community, the first of its kind in the country. It had its groundbreaking in October 2001. Back then, their demo farms, the site of Pick 'n' Pay activities were just beginning, with seedlings in a nursery and some month-old crops.

Since then, the farm has expanded and the crop mix has widened into an interesting array of fruits and vegetables. Now available are high-quality organic crops like tomatoes, lettuce, cucumber, a wide range of herbs like coriander, basil, marjoram, thyme, sage, lemongrass, as well as fascinating hybrid crops, like round eggplant, cherry tomatoes, sweet pepper, and the soon-to-be-introduced red papaya. Also available are fruits in season.

Pick 'n' Pay makes for a great family activity, and is especially enjoyable for fruit and vegetable lovers. Another Leisure Farms' fruit and vegetable activity to watch out for is the Harvest Festival.

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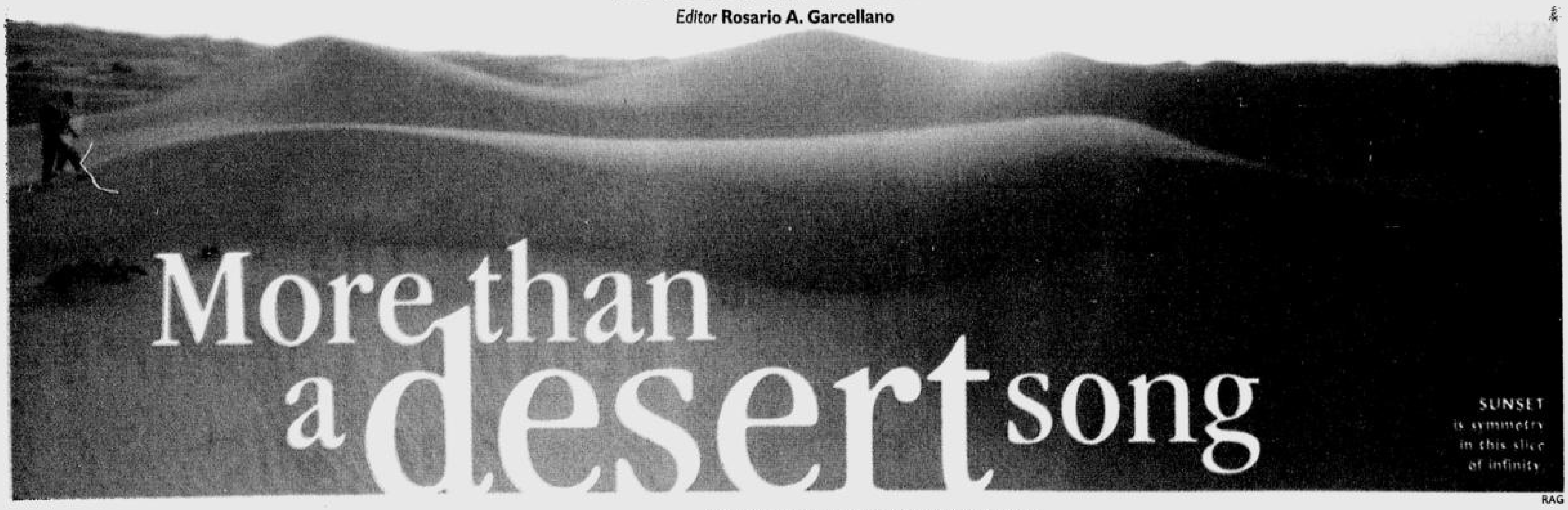
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## TRAVEL

*Editor* **Rosario A. Garcellano**



# More than a desert song

SUNSET is symmetry in this slice of infinity

RAG

**By Rosario A. Garcellano**

SO here you are in a four-wheel-drive, expecting metaphors to lunge at you like a mummy materializing from the sand. The looming experience is not entirely unimaginable, having been heralded by brochure pictures of mighty Land Cruisers suspended between dunes. That, plus a tiny nugget that you chipped from the memory lode—Truman Capote's blind masseur, dressed in his Sunday best and left high and dry in the Mojave, where there is "nothing but sand and mesquite and this boiling blue sky."

The highway slices across the desert, and on either side stretches a nothingness of sand dotted with scraggly brush. The heat oozes over the yet shadow-less plains. You are heading to Al Ain, according to the dour Nasser, who, in an initial—and it turned out final—burst of chattiness, declared that visiting Dubai and missing out on a sojourn in the desert was like drinking coffee without sugar. That doesn't say much for those who like their coffee black. But then he's no Capote.

The destination is the village of Margham, meeting point of all the vehicles (about 20 today) taking visitors on the desert safari. Somewhere in its infinity, where the wind shapes the dunes in elegant forms and, capriciously, wipes these out within minutes to produce another, altogether new, sandscape, the experience begins. But not before Nasser and the other drivers turn their wards loose for the obligatory photo ops and, in that raucous distraction, take the opportunity to deflate the vehicles' tires for the rough ride ahead.

> The wind shapes the dunes in elegant forms and, capriciously, wipes these out within minutes to produce another, altogether new, sandscape

**BELLY dancer performs a nightly ritual.**

And then: You speed up one dune and down another, veer to the right in a hairpin turn, churn to the left where an inexplicable dimple marks the beige expanse, zigzag on a plenitude of slopes, double back in fierce reverse, zoom toward where you think you lost your breath—and barely catch it, caress a curve, carom above a sudden valley, pause delicately on an improbable peak, teeter there gently, roll down to where your stomach has dropped, crash through an imaginary roadblock…

"You must know the terrain like the back of your hand," you tell Nasser, weakly, at some point in the rock and roll.

"I can do this with my eyes closed. Shall we try?" he murmurs.

Not one of the four other people in the vehicle takes up the sly suggestion. (But on hindsight, you think: Why in blazes not? What difference would it have made? Don't we all, at more times than we care to admit, grope blind and abandoned under a seething sky?)

* * *

Dubai is, of course, much more than a desert song. The "commercial capital" of the seven-member United Arab Emirates presents itself as an oasis in the Middle East where ancient and modern, rich tradition and state-of-the-art technology are seamlessly merged. The parachute journalist eager to wade out of the swamp of clichés to find more substantial clues to the lay of the land would note, for example, men dressed in the traditional white robe and matching head cover driving an SUV to die for, or women enveloped in black talking into the latest in mobile phones, flashing neon-bright nail polish.

You get the picture. The people of Dubai, including those who merely work there but have made it their home, enjoy not only the best of creature comforts (as you are told and, indeed, observe) but also (perhaps as a natural consequence) a universe of choices. (To illustrate: For women, the choice is theirs whether to cover or not to cover, says Anita Mehra Homayoun, marketing and media relations director of Dubai's Department of Civil Aviation. For those who choose to, you surmise, it is rather like a declaration of independence from western concepts of image and culture.)

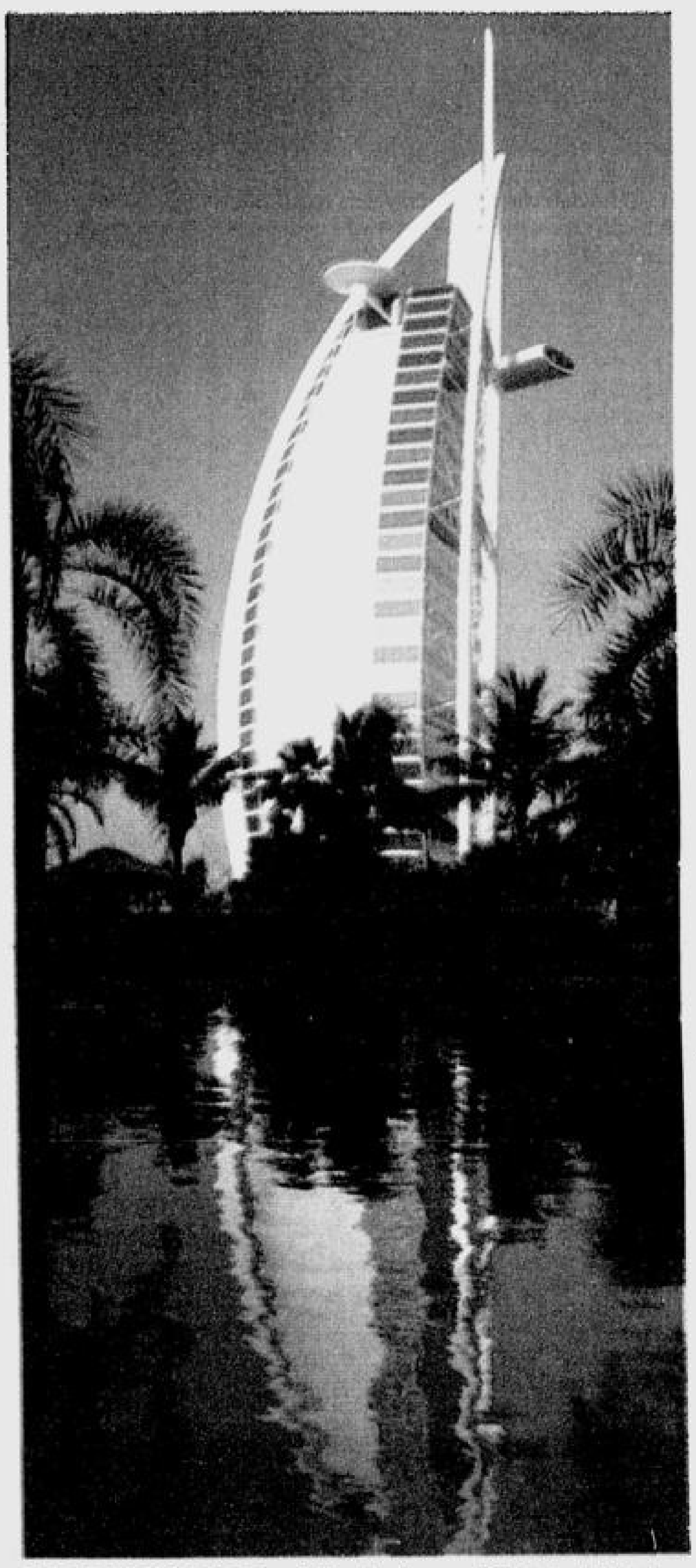
Tim Clark, chief director of Emirates airline, describes Dubai as an "exploding metropolis"—an apt description if you want to be literal about it, given the construction activities (housing, yet more luxury hotels, *whole cities*) evident in various stages of implementation and made dramatic by the desert's physical and psychical presence.

That omnipresence notwithstanding, Clark says Dubai is a sought-after place of employment where "virtually every nationality is represented," and, consequently, no problems concerning ethnicity or religion are encountered. And there is greenery everywhere, as well as blooms in the most brilliant hues—truly refreshing, albeit surreal, sights in the scorching temperature (40-plus in the shade in May). You are told that they employ the drip system to nourish the flora, and that all water is taken from the sea and desalinated. Quite naturally, you are bedazzled by these human triumphs.

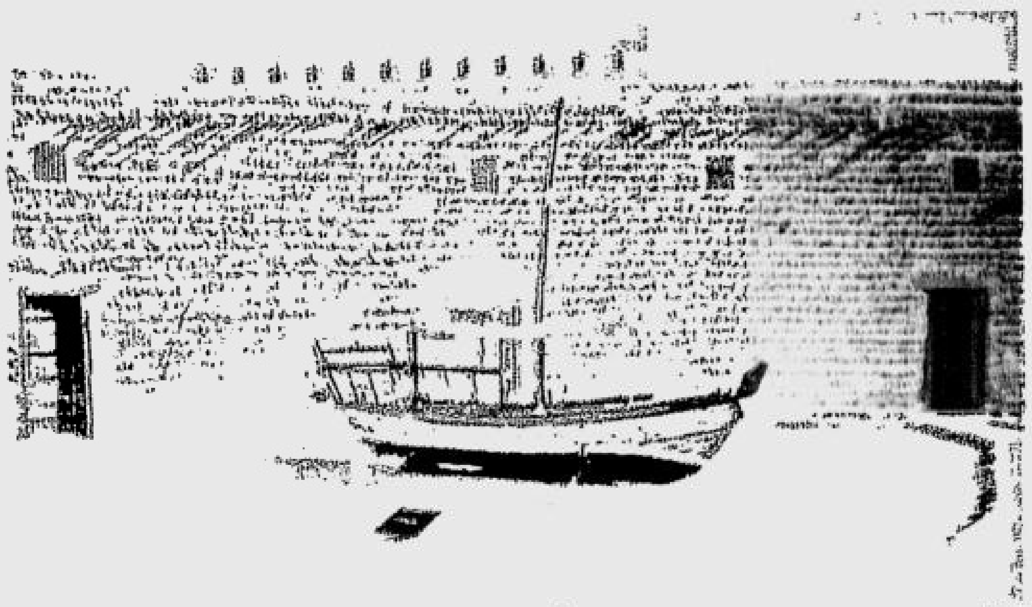
* * *

Sunset finds the desert safari winding down at a camp where visitors in twos may get on a recumbent camel who will, at a *chhk-chhk* from its Bedouin tender, rise on all fours to take its thrilled, shrieking passengers on a brief amble. That ritual done and duly captured on film—the camel putting on a wry face that says "what fools these mortals be"—everyone repairs for cocktails and a barbecue dinner at a clearing hemmed in by stone and sand and laid out with "tents," rugs and buffet tables.

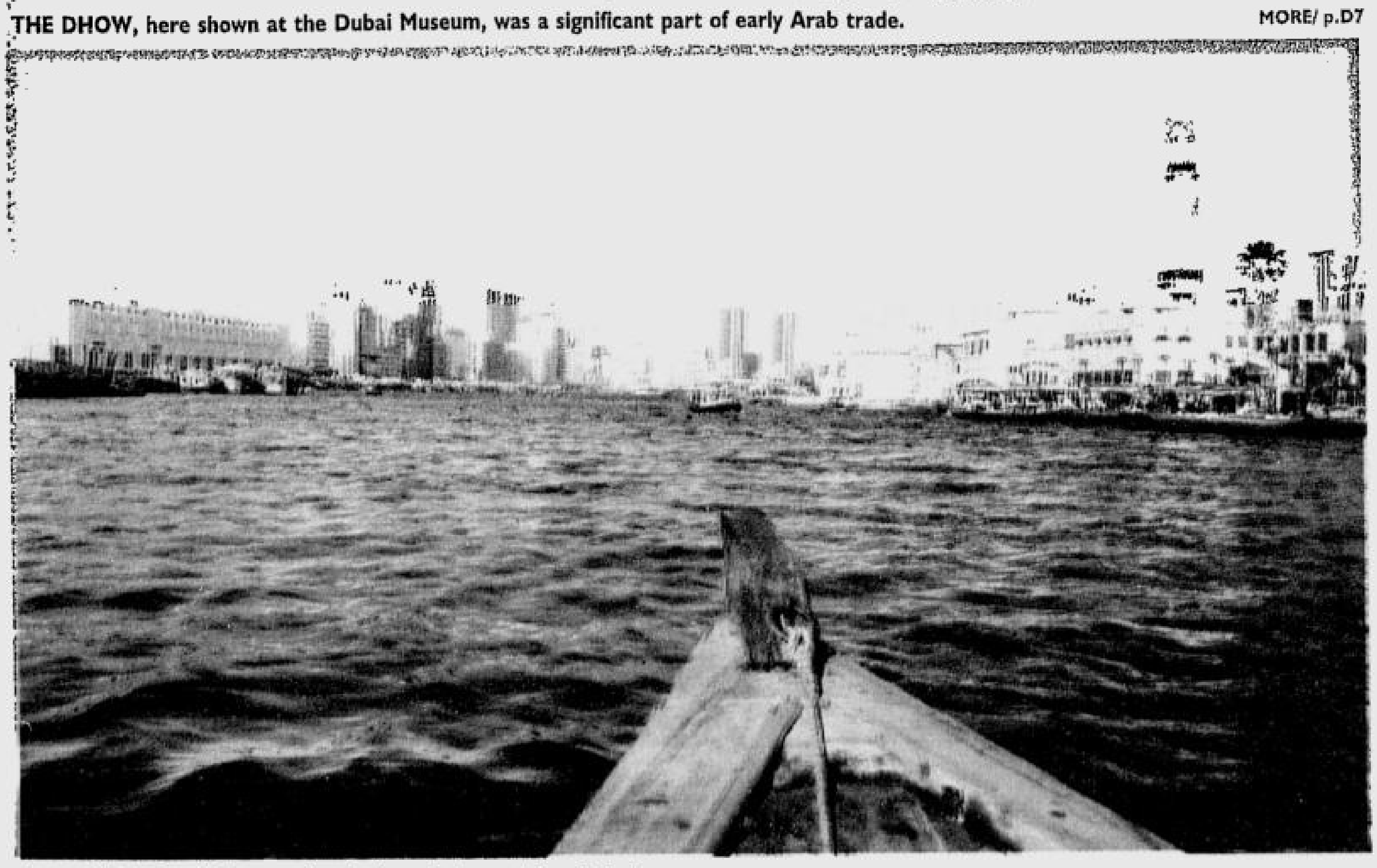
MORE/ p.D7



**THE SAIL-SHAPED Bur Al Arab, the world's tallest hotel building, sets new heights of luxury.**



**THE DHOW, here shown at the Dubai Museum, was a significant part of early Arab trade.**



**THE DUBAI Creek bisects the city into Deira and Bur Dubal.**

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## *Not bad for what was once just a stopover*

**By Rosario A. Garcellano**

TOURISM in Dubai started only in the mid-1980s, but by the year 2001 it had 3.6 million hotel guests.

Not bad for an industry that had its beginnings in the marketing of the emirate as a stopover, when travelers—Germans and British, mostly—spent a night or two there on their way back to their own countries.

Now, says Frederic Bardin, general manager of Arabian Adventures, Dubai has become a year-round destination, with its hotels fully occupied even in torrid August. The crucial—and evidently hugely effective—come-on in the summer months of June, July and August is the slash in hotel rates by as much as 50 percent.

If that appears a bit bold, attribute it to an aggressive, long-term program that, according to Ajay N. Rajguru, deputy manager of media relations at Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, has for one of its targets 15 million hotel guests by the year 2010.

And no, it does not seem like a pipe dream.

Bardin invokes "Dubai Inc." or the "Spirit of Dubai" in trying to explain why things are working. In response to the question of whether the government or the private sector is the primary agency in drawing the tourists, he talks of cooperation and teamwork. "We get the tourists in before we talk about who did what," he says.

It certainly helps that the general infrastructure is in place and ever expanding. (Construction projects—i.e., hotels and resorts—are "never behind schedule," Rajguru declares.) There's also the highly efficient Dubai International Airport, which is embarking on an expansion program to accommodate 100 aircraft of the multi-awarded Emirates airline and about 30 million passengers by 2010. On the ground, there is an equally efficient taxi service.

And, most important, an almost nonexistent crime rate and an open, cosmopolitan atmosphere allow tourists to enjoy the vaunted *diyafah* (Arabian hospitality).

Bardin says Arabian Adventures, which is Dubai's destination management company, is focused on the growth of its existing markets that include travelers from Europe (British, Germans, Swiss) and the Gulf countries and multinational accounts. Strengthening the MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) aspect is part of that focus.

Dubai's attraction to Europeans who are perpetually chasing the sun poses no mystery.

NOT/ p.D7

# More than a desert song

From page D6

The mood is mellow, the sand under your toes exceedingly fine and startlingly cool. There is, *mirabile dictu*, a slight, soothing breeze. You sip your drink and nibble on spinach and cheese, idly wondering if you should do your cool daughter halfway across the planet one better by getting a henna tattoo. But then dinner, which you pick out from the buffet tended by the drivers, gets in the way.

And suddenly, as the poet says, it is evening. Conscious of the singularity of the moment, as convinced as Mulder and Scully that the truth is out there (if only you know where to look), you sweep the sky for celestial signs. But tonight there is no moon to complete the scene, no splash of stars to drive home the terrible power of the elements.

At any rate, there is no time to mourn that absence. A flurry of movement and the belly dancer emerges from somewhere, uh, backstage, and proceeds to mesmerize. She is swathed in silks except in strategic places, delightfully graceful, and careful to "pose" for tourist cameras in the nanosecond between bumps and grinds.

You are just starting to wonder about her gypsy lineage while sorting out the welter of Cecil B. de Mille images that crowd your mind—oh, what dangers stereotyping inflicts!—when she beckons to someone in your group to join her, and for good measure, takes the surprised visitor by the hand. Instantly flustered, afraid that you might be so chosen in the course of that time-tested trick called audience participation, you nervously worm your way behind a clump of laughing spectators. Thus hidden, annoyed that you had forgotten to pack your Groucho Marx disguise, the killjoy in you takes a swig of bottled water and wrestles down your constant foe: the violent urge to flee.

* * *

Stage fright or no, visitors to Dubai are offered "not just a holiday but memories of a lifetime." Nice pitch from its Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, but there's more to the pitch than words. Ever guided by the metropolis' character as progressive in outlook but never forgetful of the past, its movers and shakers present a striking duality that ought to give lessons to other nations striving to draw tourists to their own shores.

The Dubai Museum provides the attentive visitor glimpses of the "other" and fundamental information on the way they were. There are holograms and lifelike representations of the desert life, dhow trade, fishing and pearling that sustained the people in the early days before the advent of modern Dubai in the 1830s. Initially appearing from outside to be a small, dusty structure, the museum is actually housed in the restored (circa 1778) Al Fahidi Fort.

From that dalliance with history that comes complete with virtual-reality scenes of the Bedouin lifestyle and traditional Dubai households with the regulation wind tower (which cools the air inside 10 degrees lower than that outside), it's an easy segue to the Dubai Creek. You can climb into an authentic dhow for a ride, imagine the intrinsic significance of that inlet from the Gulf to the emirate's trade starting from the past to the present, and admire the glass-and-steel buildings lining the bank.

There are malls galore, luxury hotels to please the most jaded high roller, a Hard Rock café in what appears to be nowhere, a Carrefour supermarket still bustling as midnight approaches, Microsoft, Nine West, KFC, Mango, conceivably even a tango school…

But what better way to believe you're in Araby than visiting the gold *souk* in Deira, where dizzying riches await, and the way to which is lined by stalls offering nuts, dates, spices, perfumes, beads and, because you are by now sufficiently dazed, all manner of dreams?

* * *

Western music comes on loud and clear over the car radio even in the desert. The signal is so strong you can perhaps phone home to tell your significant other where you've been and what you saw there.

On the way out of Margham, Nasser having inflated the vehicle's tires for the return trip on paved roads, the headlights catch silent figures plodding along in the dark: alpha camel with Bedouin astride it, leading three other camels home. You gape at them as you whiz past.

Within half an hour, maybe less, you will see the city lights blinking in the distance. Elsewhere in the Middle East, you think, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is preparing to emerge from what is left of his headquarters in devastated, once-beautiful Ramallah.

*Emirates flies six times a week from Manila to Dubai.*

# Not bad . . .

From page D6

(For example, despite the soaring temperature one afternoon in May—40 degrees and counting—they are observed happily baking cheek by jowl at the white-sand Jumeirah Beach Resort.) But what can it offer travelers from Asia, specifically from the Philippines where there is no lack of the tropical factor and which is no slouch in the beach department?

The Frenchman in Bardin is unflustered. He ticks them off: more shopping opportunities for the till-you-drop types; sports (golf, tennis, horse and camel races); and the perennial crowd-drawer, the desert. On top of all that, of course, points out Emirates' Fay Thompson, is safety—now the overriding concern of most tourists and which is a matter of course in Dubai.

It does seem like there is something for everyone in that metropolis. There are safaris to the desert, the mountains and the *wadis* (riverbeds). Travelers so inclined may sign up for half- or full-day courses in desert driving. There's also room for bird watchers, with about 400 avian species there.

As though to push the envelope, a winter resort is a-building and is due for a soft opening next year. Think about it: It will actually be possible in the future to say "I went snow-skiing in Dubai." (Asked to comment, Bardin says deadpan: "It's not the oil sheiks throwing their money out the window but building this structure to make money.")

Ah, yes. At the Burj Al Arab, which sits on a man-made island some 280 meters offshore, and where travelers are driven in from the airport in white Rolls Royces (there's also a helipad on the 28th floor), luxury is the operative word and money is the overriding image. (The dirham—Dh—is the UAE currency, with the fixed rate of exchange of Dh3.671=US$1.)

Each of Burj Al Arab's 202 suites has floor-to-ceiling windows offering a view of the sea, furnishings done in gold leaf, service from "a brigade of exclusive butlers," marble bathrooms, etc. etc.

The suites range from deluxe (170 square meters for Dh2,700) to royal (780 sq m, Dh25,000). At the time of our visit, what was built to be the most luxurious hotel in the world was fully occupied.

It's true—if you build it, they will come. It's said Bill Clinton once did.

## TRAVEL BRIEFS

### Marian journeys

AS a fitting ending to the Marian month of May, the Kalipunan ng mga Asosasyon para sa Ikauunlad ng Vigan at Kapaligiran Foundation (KaiVigan) is conducting its weekend tour, Ilocos Marian Shrines and Churches Journey, starting on May 31.

The first of its kind, the tour includes stops at the popular and yet-to-be-discovered sanctuaries of the Virgin Mary in the Ilocos, as well as its centuries-old churches, along with complimentary souvenirs, accommodations, meals and a visit to the World Heritage City of Vigan.

KaiVigan is a non-profit non-government organization established in 1994 to protect Vigan's heritage. It has helped in promoting tourism-oriented livelihood opportunities for Vigan. Proceeds of the weekend tours will go to the foundation's projected training center for traditional industries.

Reservations will be accepted up to May 27. Call 912-5618 or 912-7004, or visit the 4/F, COD Department Store in Cubao, Quezon City.

### 'Pinyasan' fest

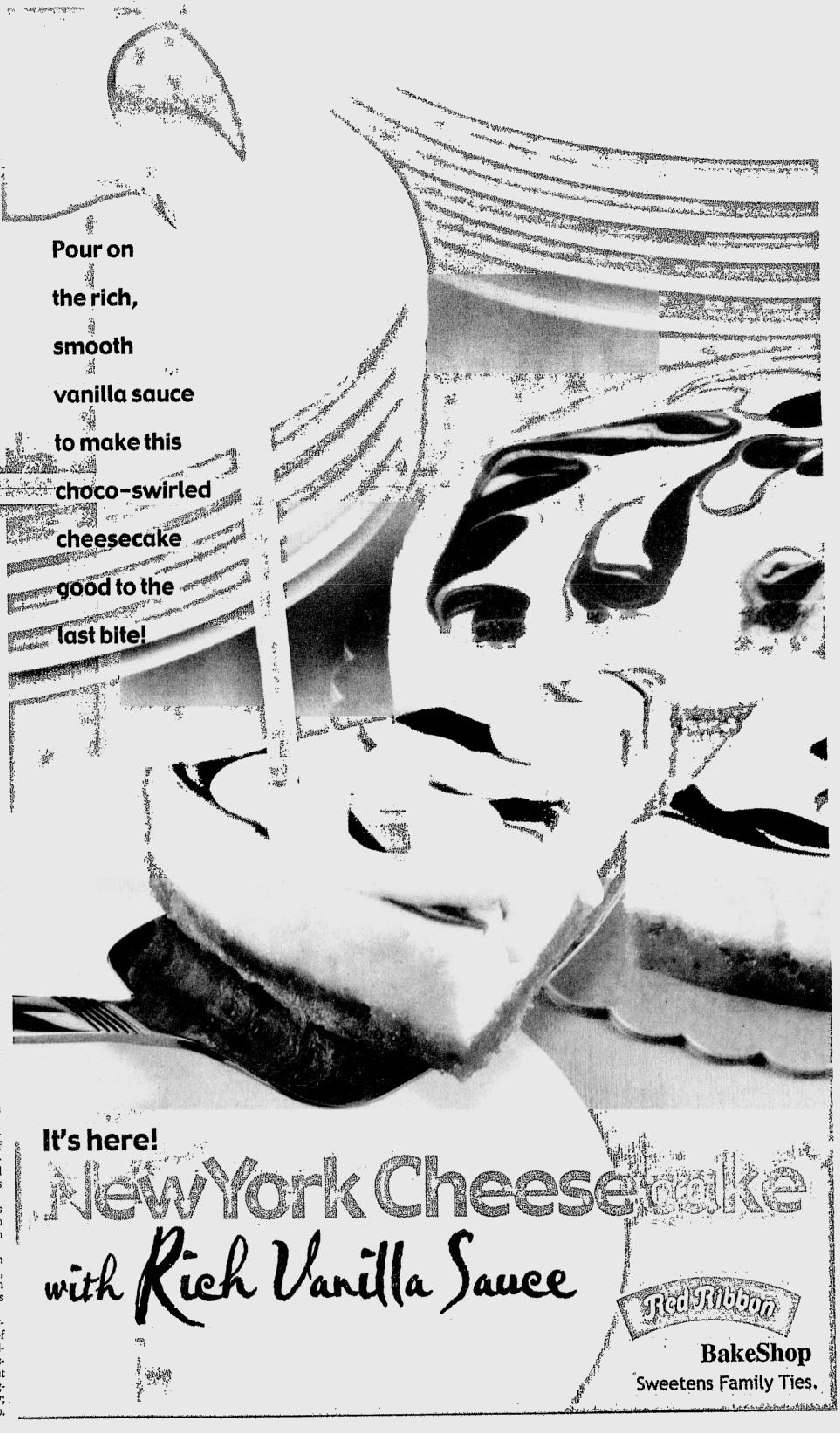
THE 10th Pinyasan Festival will be held on June 15-24 in Daet, Camarines Norte.

Mayor Tito Sarion said the weeklong celebration would feature a mobile display of Marikina City's shoe products, a beauty pageant, a food and agro-industrial fair, a cultural night, guest appearances by TV personalities and other special events.

A street-dancing parade featuring performers in pineapple-inspired costumes is scheduled to start on June 23. It will culminate on June 24 in time for the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

Sporting events include a surfing exhibition and competition, marathon, beach volleyball, cycling, *paraw* regatta, national air rifle open competition, mountain conquests, motocross tilt, sport fishing and indigenous games.

The festival sponsors are the Municipal Government of Daet; Provincial Government of Camarines Norte; Pacific Coast Resort Development Corp.; Camarines Norte Pineapple Festival Development Foundation; Metro Daet Development Foundation; Departments of Agriculture, Tourism, and Trade and Industry; and Philippine Conventions and Visitors Corp.



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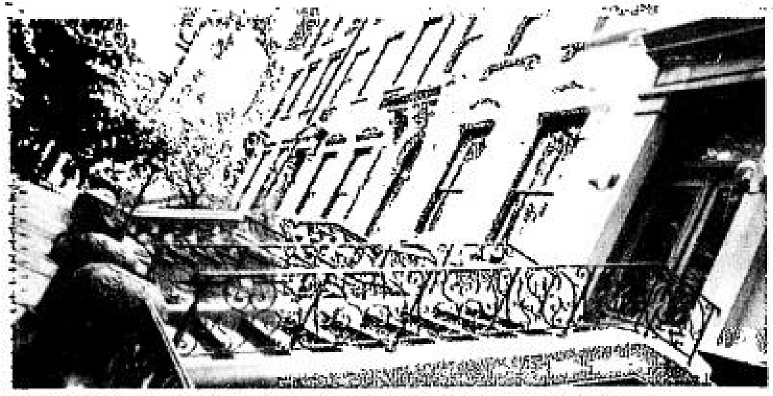
# *Sunday* LIFESTYLE



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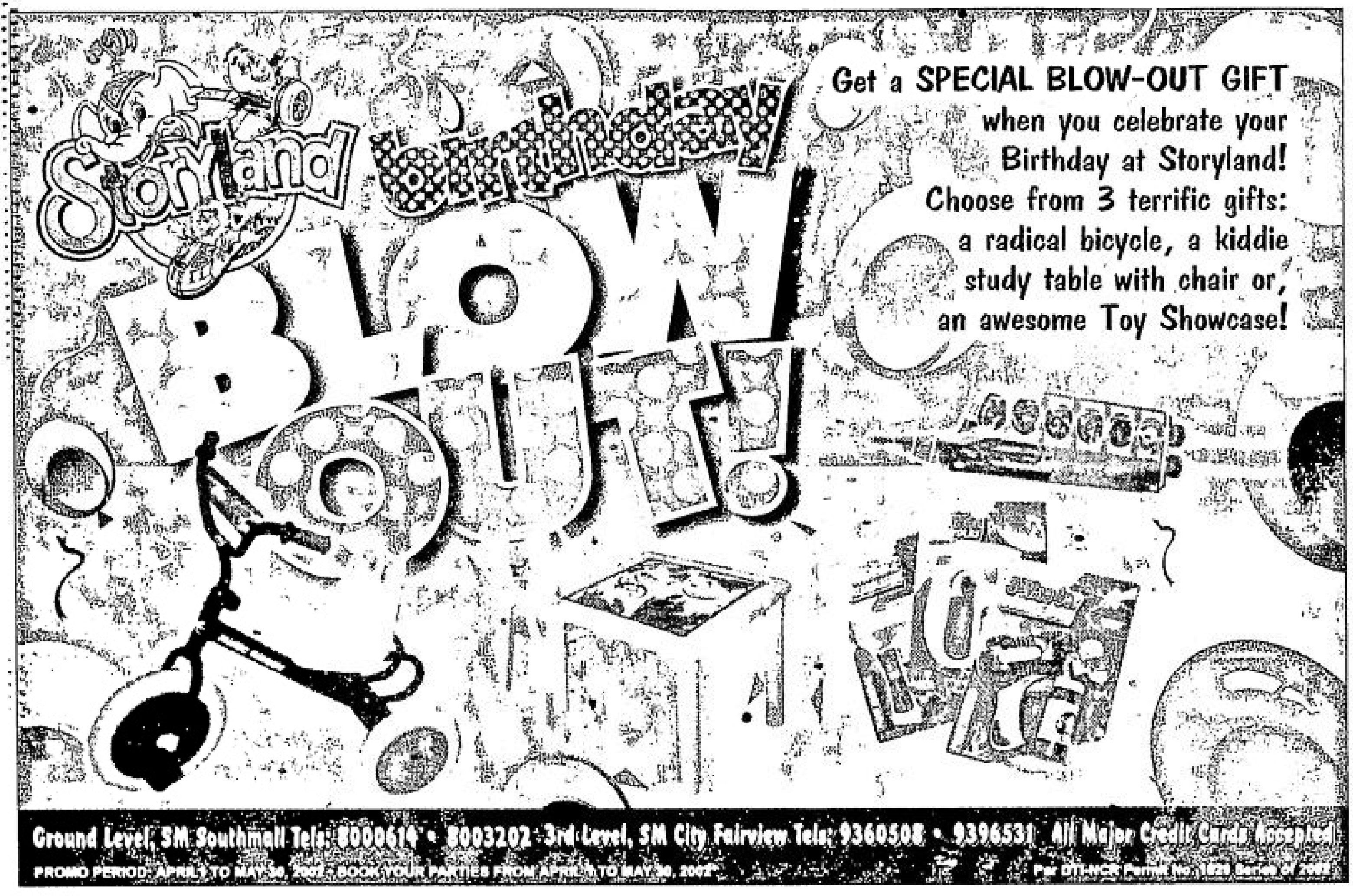

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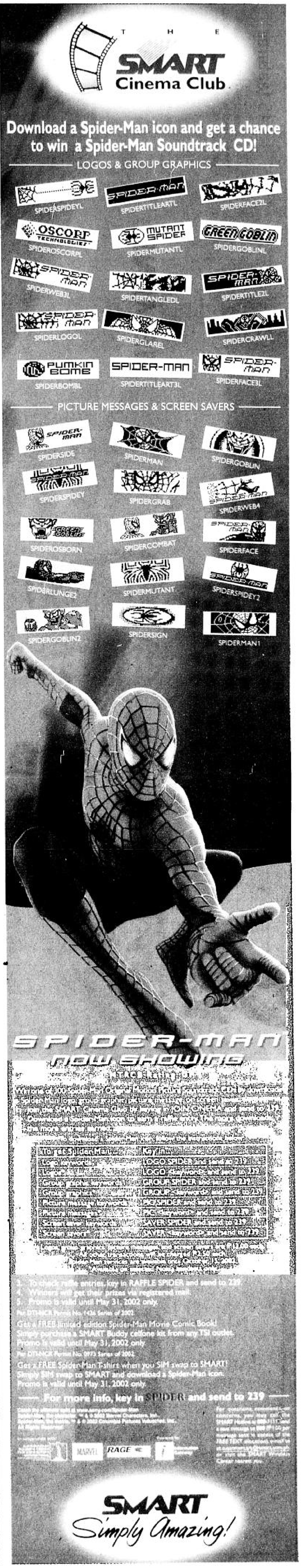

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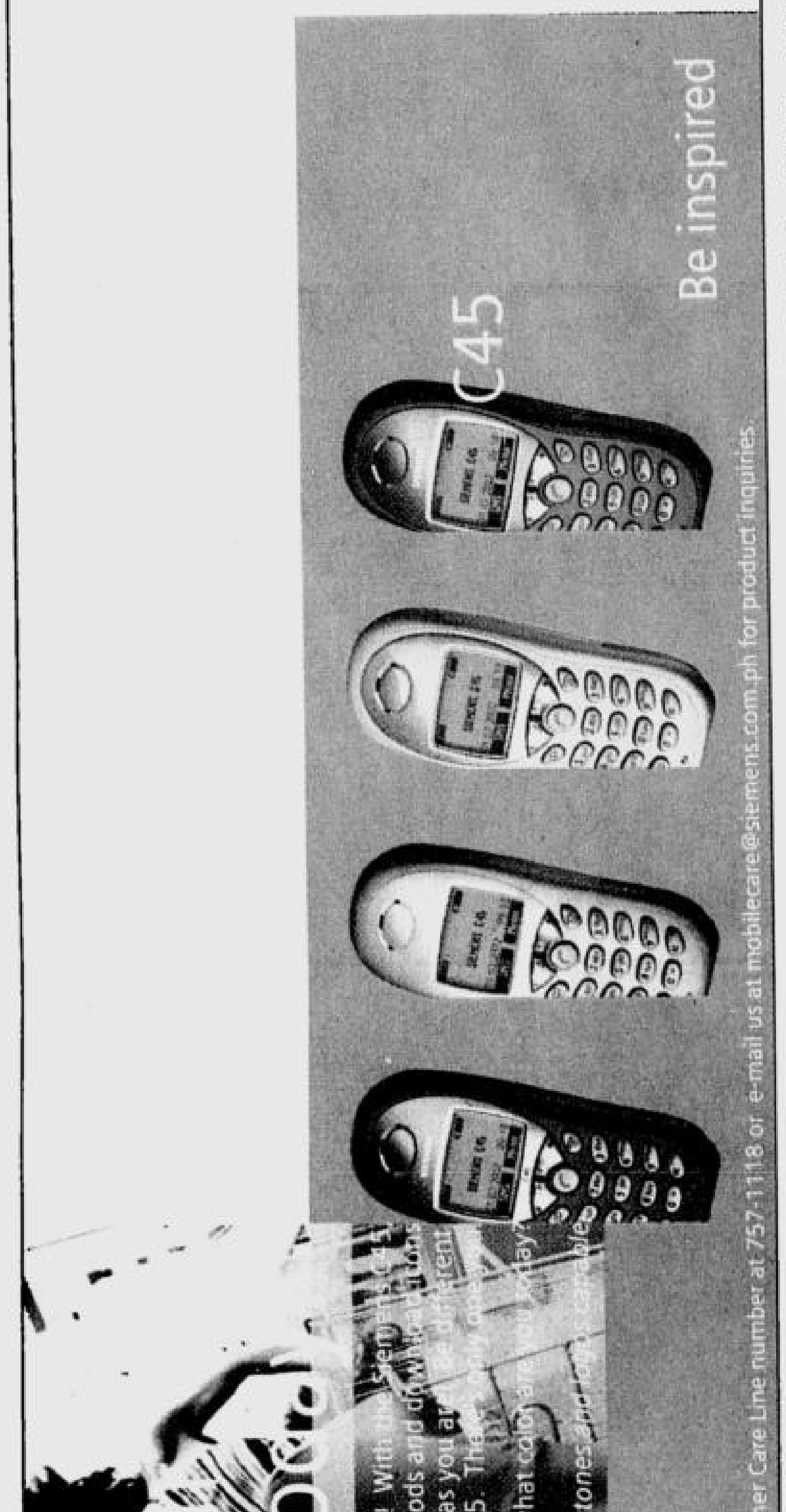

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# Style in Spades

IT WAS a red-letter day for local admirers of Kate Spade as Mix Boutique in Greenbelt Mall threw a cocktail party to showcase the best of the famous designer's collection from New York.

The Kate Spade set, consisting of the best from the Spring 2002 collection, was meticulously selected by Mix Boutique owner Tina Ocampo.

Models Joan Bitagcol, Phoemela Baranda, Isabel Roces, Rissa Samson and Raya Mananquil brought Kate Spade's gorgeous collection to life.

To complement the collection, Mix Boutique devised a fashion installation. Every detail and accent in the party were carefully selected and arranged to keep pace with the distinction and appeal of the Kate Spade chic style. Pink and white roses gave accent to Emilio Aguilar's paintings. Page One provided the books; lighting was by Flos Steltz and designer furniture sets by B & B Italia and Citimex. Sumptuous cocktails were served by Kitchen as red and white wine overflowed courtesy of Anonymous.

Fashion connoisseurs added prestige to the event with their presence. Friends from fashion magazines, MTV Fashionista, E! Philippines, The Kikay Machine, as well as "F" of ABS-CBN came in full force to cover the event.

Kate Spade's growing popularity created much anticipation for her latest collection that fashionistas went to Mix a day earlier, among them Mandy Santos, Jay Leung, Nanette Medved-Po, Monique Sison, Liaa Conjuangco-Bautista, Eleanor Aguinaldo and Theresa Lopez.

Other fashion aficionados caught partying with Ricco and Tina Ocampo, Kerren Pascual, Doris Ho of Asian Society, Vicky and Christina Soriano, Anton San Diego, Chavit and Rachel "Che" Singson, MTV's Rod Nepomuceno and Chris Lopez, Jenny Pena, Rochelle Moreno, Rowena Tomeldan and Winnie Nazareth, Myrza Sison, Mia Borromeo, Liza llarde and Elbert Cuenca, Celine Lopez, L'Oreal's Leica Carpo and Christina Tinio, international model-actress Teresa Herrera with fashion stylist-sister Rosario Herrera, Dennis Valdez, Maurice Arcache, and many more.

TERESA Herrera, Myrza Sison and Rosario Herrera

VICKY Soriano and Christina Soriano

ROWENA Tomeldan, Winnie Nazareth and Gabby Tomeldan

SALOME Uy and Izza Gonzales

CHAVIT Singson, Sharon Azanza, Vicky Ancheta and Rachel "Che" Singson

ROD Nepomuceno, Chris Lopez and Anton Barreto

# Mobile phone revolution

MOTOROLA, a leader in mobile technology, launched a new line of mobile phones during "Motorevolution" at the Captain's Bar at the Mandarin Oriental Manila.

"Our revolution is the very progressive and innovative type," says William Tan, the country manager of Motorola for both Singapore and Philippines PCS business operation. "It is a technological innovation in telecommunication that is meant to complement the highly mobile and active lifestyle."

The newest collection of Motorola mobile phones promises to cut across all markets. The hip T190, the stylish tri-band V66, and the ultra-cool, "swing-blade" V70, have designs and features that appeal to technologically-savvy Filipinos. Ellen T. Suarez, Motorola's marketing manager for Consumer Solutions Group-South Asia, boast that "Motorevolution" is really a "perfect mix of high-technology, furrow, beauty and usability."

**MOTOROLA officials joins Philippine Daily Inquirer's (PDI) top guns. From left: Motorola customer service engineer Jun Campos; Felipe Olarte, PDI's VP for advertising; Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, PDI president; Motorola's marketing manager for consumer solutions group-South Asia Ellen T. Suarez; William Tan, the country manager of Motorola's personal communications sector (PCS) for the Philippines and Singapore; Motorola's PCS service manager Au Rios and Kenny Nuyda, PDI manager for advertising.**

"Motorevolution's" guests at the Mandarin seemed to agree. The offbeat audio-visual presentations of T190 and V66 and the TV ad of V70 were met warmly by Motorola's director, Joju Quejada, and regional manager for security, Joel Tiglao, who was with Transportation and Communications consultant Richard Young, representing Sec. Pantaleon Alvarez. Also present were representatives from telecom giants Globe Telecom, Smart Communications Inc., Touch Mobile, Digitel Philippines, Talk 'n' Text, distributors Celstar Philippines, Wintelecom Inc., Dialogue, Smartnet, and top dealers and players from the telecommunications industry. Others who came to witness the affair were the Philippine Daily Inquirer's Sandy Prieto Romualdez, Pepito Olarte and Kenny Nuyda, Philippine Star's Grace Glory and Lucien Dy-Tioco, BusinessWorld's Danny Ocampo, Panorama's editor Randy Urlanda, Chat & Rev Magazine's publishers Grace and Lito Mendoza. Also sighted were RX 93.1's Chinggay and Chito Barreiro, MTV Asia's Rod Nepomuceno, RSA'S Bong and Vira Arceo, 105.1 Crossover's Rochelle Villar-Santiago and Robert Crespo, Inquirer columnist Donnie Ramirez, Daily Tribune's Resty Vergara, Radio Mindanao Network's Atty. Aga and show-biz celebrity Ali Sotto.

Other business friends and associates who also came were Motorola's advertising agencies executives, Universal McCann's Patricia Arches, Mon Samarista and O&M's Lyda Santiago and Eena Kanapi, BMG Pilipinas' executives Rudy Tee and Narciso Chan, with Fidel Esteban and John Yuyucheng, Celestial Media's mother and daughter tandem, Rose Bacani and Faith Abano, Mandarin's GM Helmut Gaisberger, with its directors Alu Suarez, Dave Thomas, Alie Sison and Director of Phil. Olympic committee Freddie Jalasco.

**SHOWBIZ celebrity Ali Sotto, Radio Mindanao Network's (RMN) Atty. AGA and Motorola director Joju Quejada.**

"Motorevolution" packed a punch because of the comedic antics of funnyman John Lapus who was the event's host. Lapus, who did a spinoff of the popular game show "Game Ka Na Ba?" had the crowd in stitches for his dead-on impersonation of Kris Aquino. The game was a serious one for the chosen contestants who had to pick the right answers to questions about Motorola's new phones. The winner took home a new T190.

Comedian Jon Santos impersonated President Macapagal-Arroyo, arriving aboard a breathtaking red Jaguar and taking some potshots at former president Joseph Estrada.

# Charriol launches debut handbag collection

PHILIPPE Charriol Far East Limited and Stores Specialist Inc. will host the first regional agency meeting to be participated in by dealers and media members from all over Asia on May 21 to 22.

The meeting will coincide with Asian launch of Charriol's debut collection of handbags designed by Coralie Charriol, daughter of Philippe, founder of the world-renowned luxury empire.

The launch of the Charriol Collection 2002, billed as "Magical Colours of Charriol World," will be held at 6:30 p.m. on May 22 at the Rizal ballroom of Makati Shangri-La Manila. Philippe Charriol himself will attend the event.

The new handbags for the spring and summer of 2002 have been sourced from the finest Italian leathers and come in four colors: apple green, fuchsia, red and black. It has Charriol's distinctive monogram "C" logo as its centerpiece. Inspired by the modern jet-setting woman, the collection also carries symbols of Cupid's bow and arrow emblazoned on each handbag, plus with a love ring that dangles off the side.

# Colors of summer

EVERYTHING'S coming up roses this summer and the ladies are definitely looking forward to spending an evening with their dashing Romeos.

A quick makeover for that summer date need not be that complicated and time-consuming. You may choose from Colour Collection's various hues of pressed powders, foundations, blushers, eye shadows and lipsticks.

For that rosy glow on your cheeks, you may use the Rosy Red Blush that's guaranteed to keep his gaze. And before you pucker up for those heart-melting, pulse-quickening kisses, choose from a wide variety of Colour Collection's Vitamin E-enriched lipsticks.

Lipstick colors include Persimmon Orange, Granada Red, Shantung Plum, Andalucia Copper, Orient Dusk, Hot Coconut, Burnt Russet, Macopa Red and Tropical Chestnut.

Colour Collection is available exclusively at Sara Lee Direct (formerly House of Sara Lee) and authorized Sara Lee dealers nationwide. For inquiries, call 810-5402.

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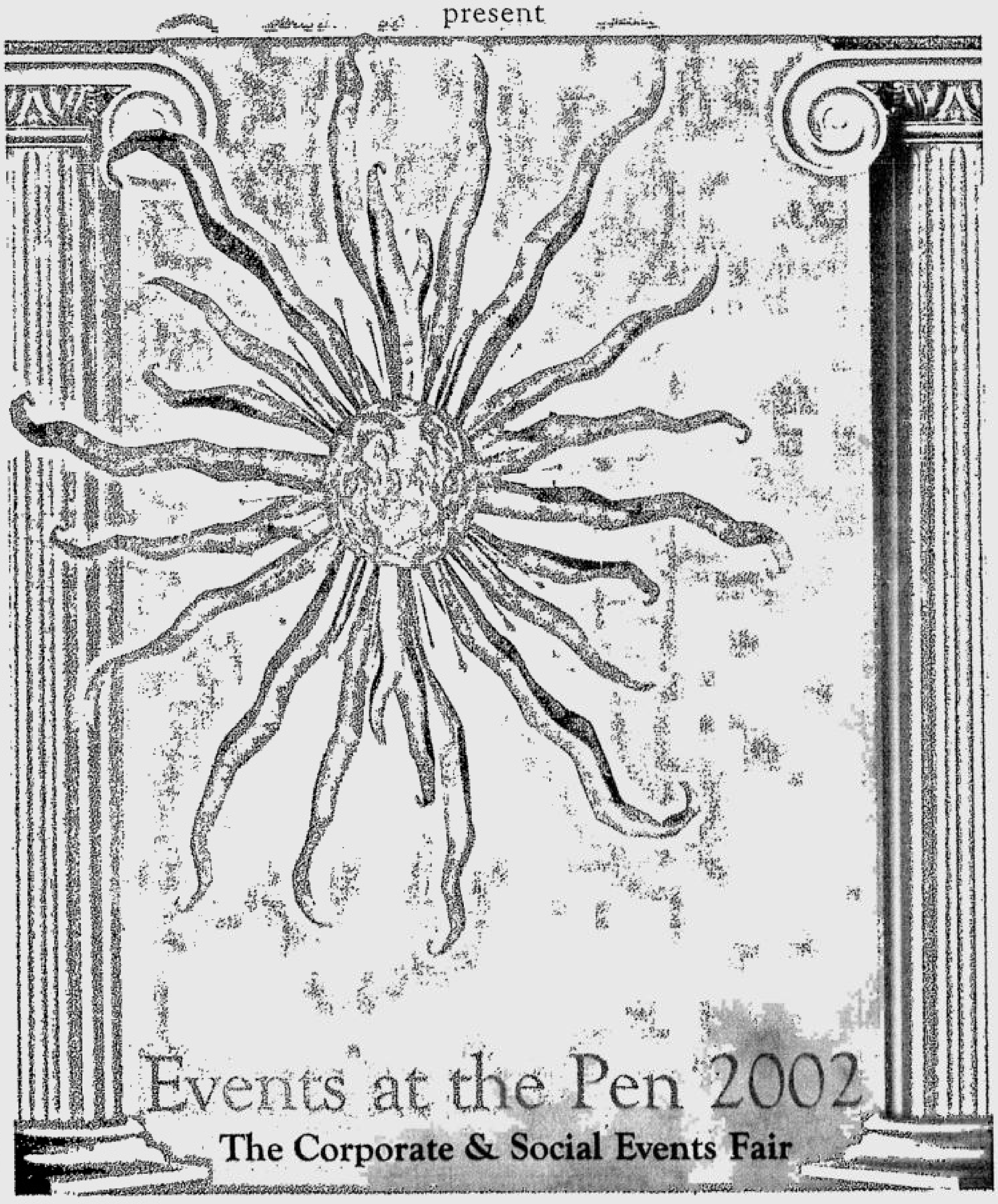

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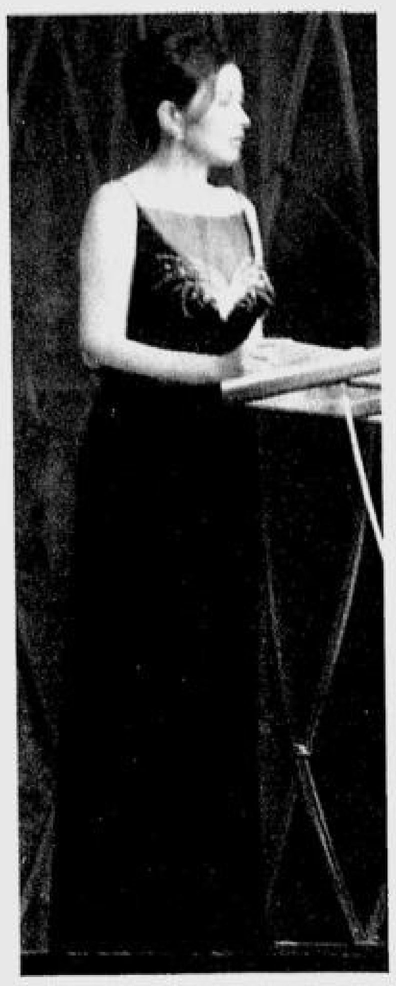
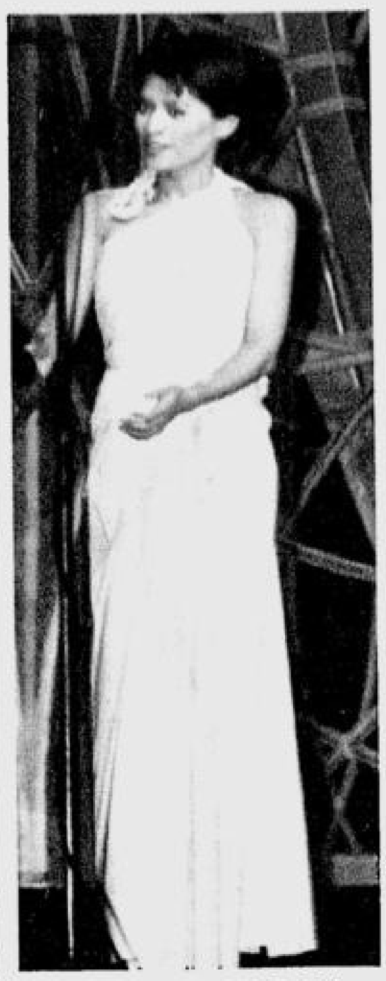
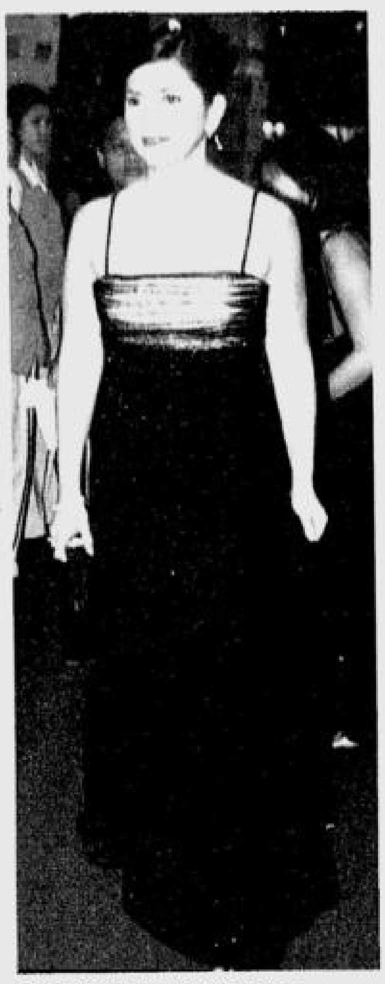


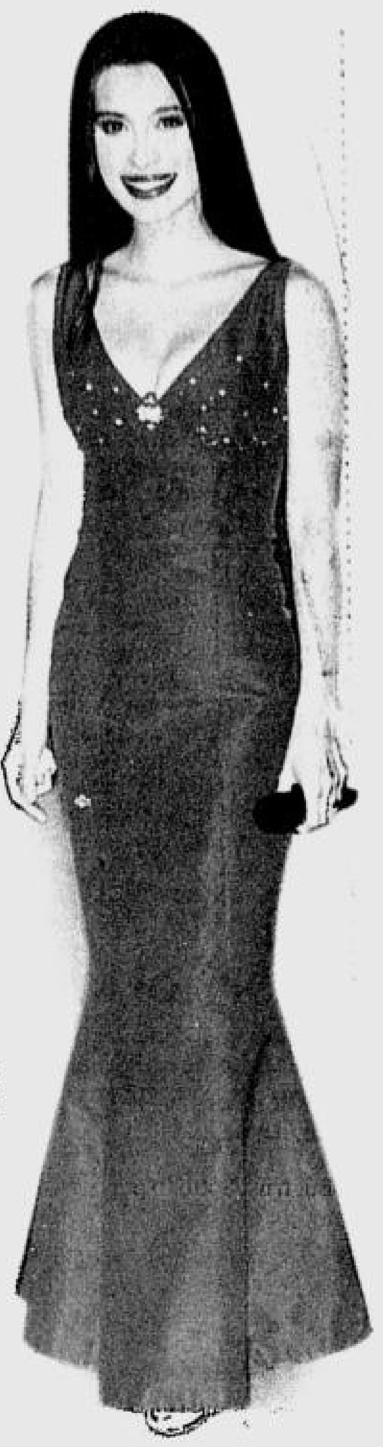
**BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL.** Lorna Tolentino opts for Paul Cabral's spaghetti-strapped jersey with stretch tulle and Swarovski accent on the chest and back.



**LOOK, MA, NO SEAMS.** Mylene Dizon slips into Inno Sotto's gown that's draped and held in place with a garter hidden around her waist and several Swarovski-embellished weights on the back and right shoulder.



**CLASSIC BEAUTY.** Dina Bonnevie goes simple in Nono Palmos' spaghetti-strapped black column with crusted stretch tulle over skin-tone lining and caviar beadwork on the bodice.



**SIMPLY RED.** Sunshine Cruz in Eric Pineda's Thai silk décolletage in flaming scarlet with hints of Swarovski beads.

# Gowns worth the critics' prize

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Joan Bondoc

THE LONG, drawn-out awards season has finally come to a close just when certain big names were starting to consistently dress the part. Recognized and budding fashionistas, for instance, far outnumbered fashion victims at the recently concluded Urian awards.

Assunta de Rossi might have had to share the stage and the top acting plum with a more seasoned rival, but from where we stood it was clear who the hands-down winner was in the fashion department. Indeed, tall and tan Assunta is proving to be a consistent box-office draw as well as fashion plate.

She was a vision of Grecian perfection in Frederick Peralta's white silk chiffon halter with a V-shaped neckline and narrow waistband embellished with Swarovski beads. The backless creation with an overlap skirt was masterfully draped, revealing her long legs and none of her cleavage.

If anything, the look was sexy but far from vulgar, clean but far from boring. A grateful Assunta didn't pass up the chance to show her gratitude to Peralta by thanking him in her rambling acceptance speech. It was the first time star and designer had worked together. Hopefully, it won't be the last.

Younger sister Alessandra de Rossi chose Indian over Greek inspiration in a two-piece strapless gown made of silk sari in pink and lilac by Njork. Nothing really wrong with the gown and its construction, but Alessandra has to fill out in the right places to look good in such a fitted number.

## Divine

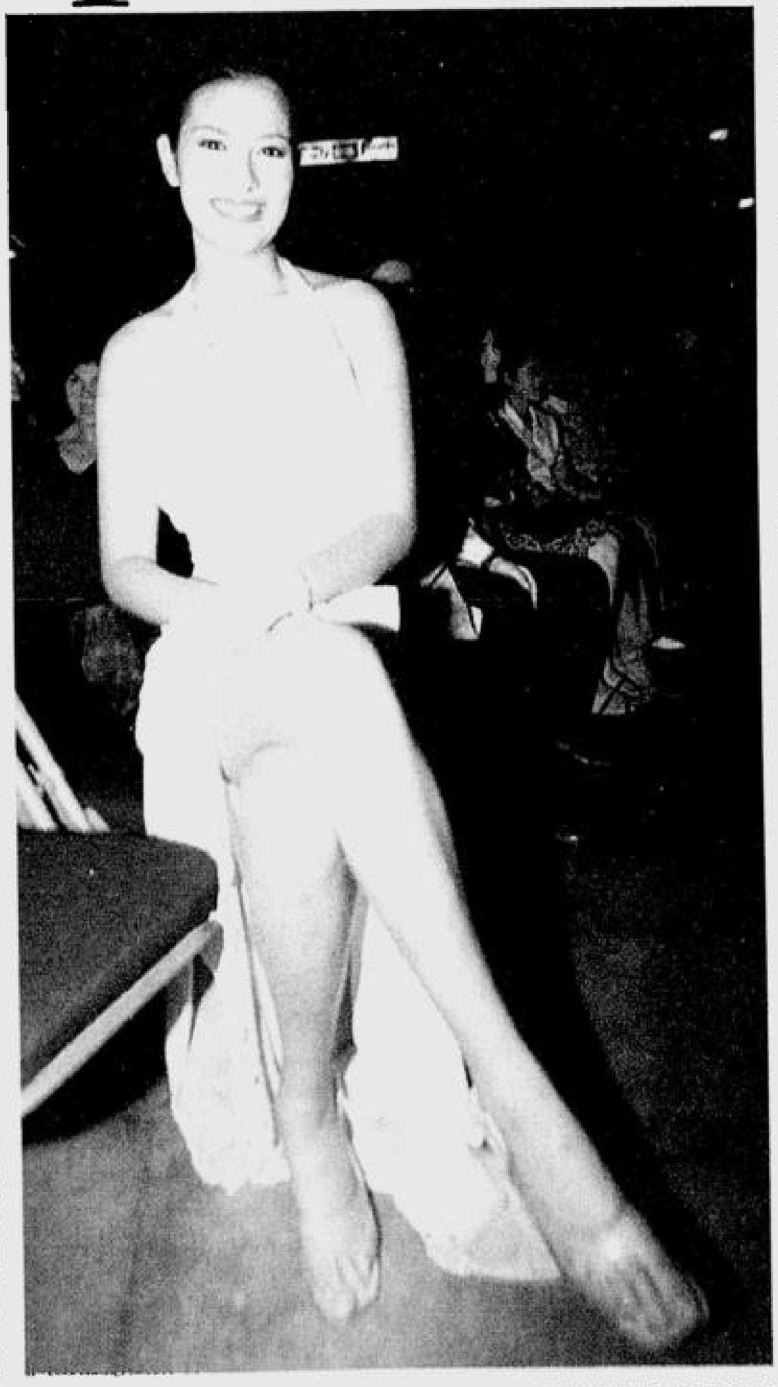
Best actress nominee Mylene Dizon might have come home empty-handed, but in our book she also managed to look divine in Inno Sotto's off-white draped jersey. Taken from its box, said Sotto, the gown was no better than a blanket with no seams, clasps or thread to keep it together. How the hell did he pull it off then?

The only items that held it in place, Sotto said, were a garter hidden around Mylene's waist and a couple of Swarovski-embellished weights on the back and shoulder.

In fact, the gown was too complicated for the pixie-haired Mylene or any of her minions to put together. So Sotto had to come to the rescue by taking the time to help her slip into it at the Araneta Coliseum. With a little push here and a little pull there, Mylene emerged onstage like a modern-day Venus. Alas, she forgot to finish off the look with a pair of diamond studs.

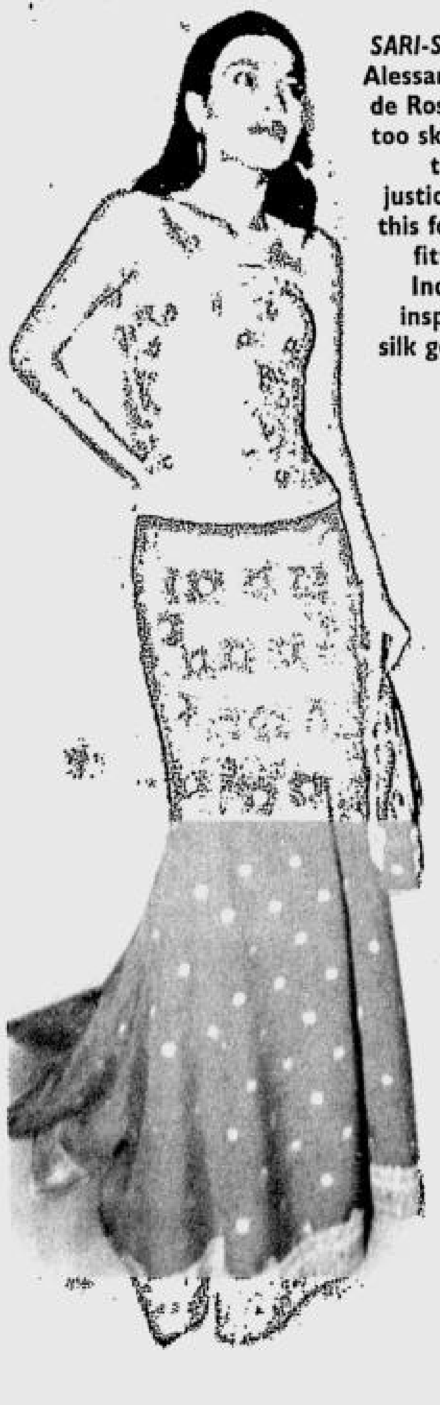
No matter since the petite but curvaceous Mylene carried the gown with aplomb. Cherie Gil—how we miss her—would have also done wonders with such a look.

Losing nominee Maricel Soriano also managed to look like a winner in Sotto's turtleneck white jersey decked with Austrian beads. She completed the look with a rhinestone-studded belt several shades darker than the gown.

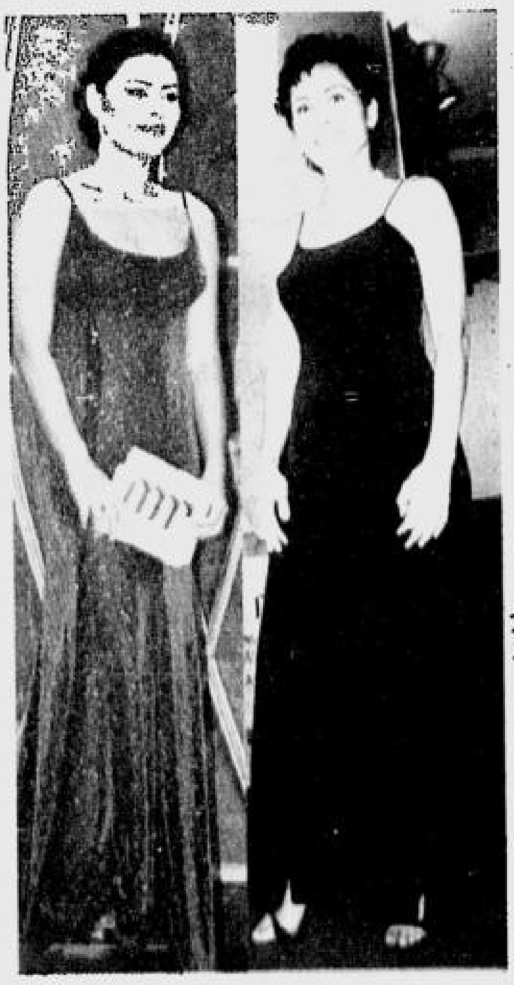


**ONE WINNER.** With youth, beauty, popularity and Frederick Peralta on her side, how can goddess Assunta de Rossi lose?

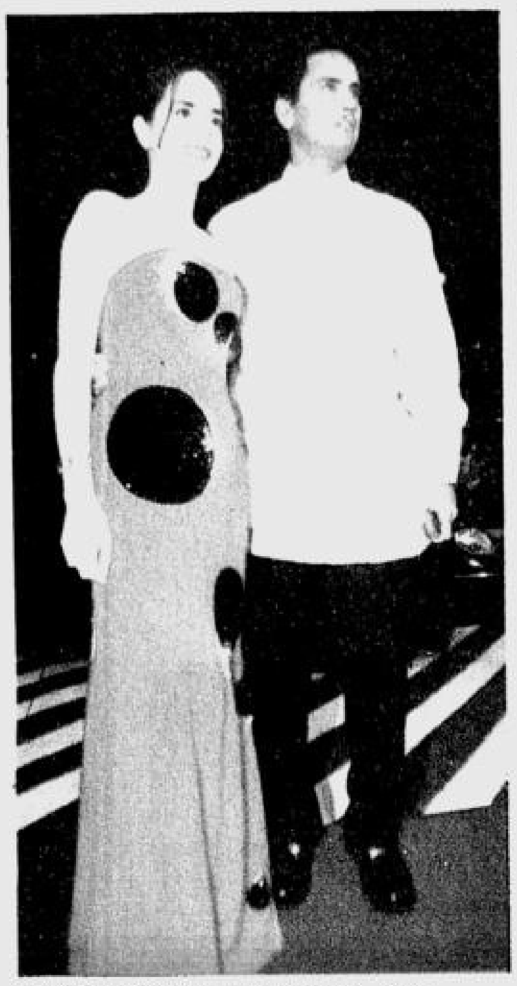
Established and budding fashionistas outnumber fashion victims in the Urian awards



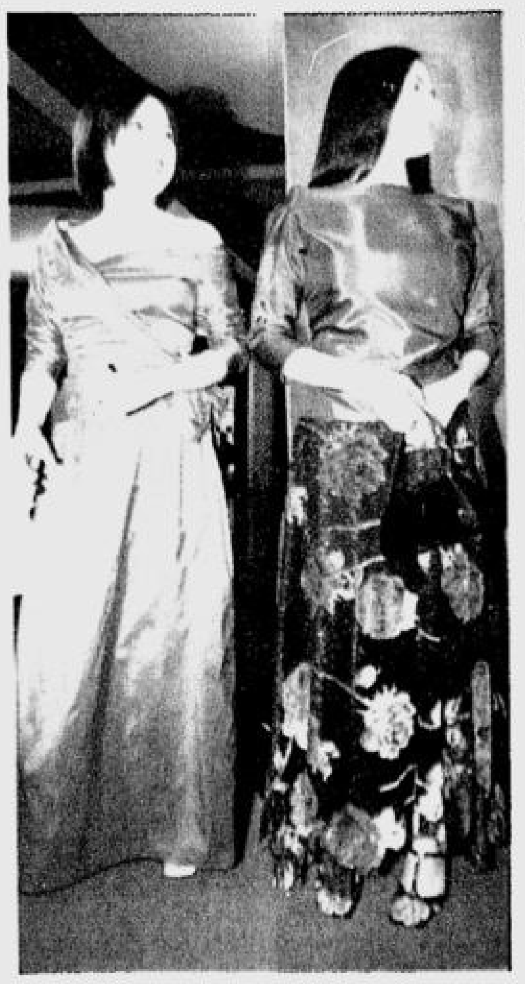
***SARI-SARI*.** Alessandra de Rossi is too skinny to do justice to this form-fitting, Indian-inspired silk gown.



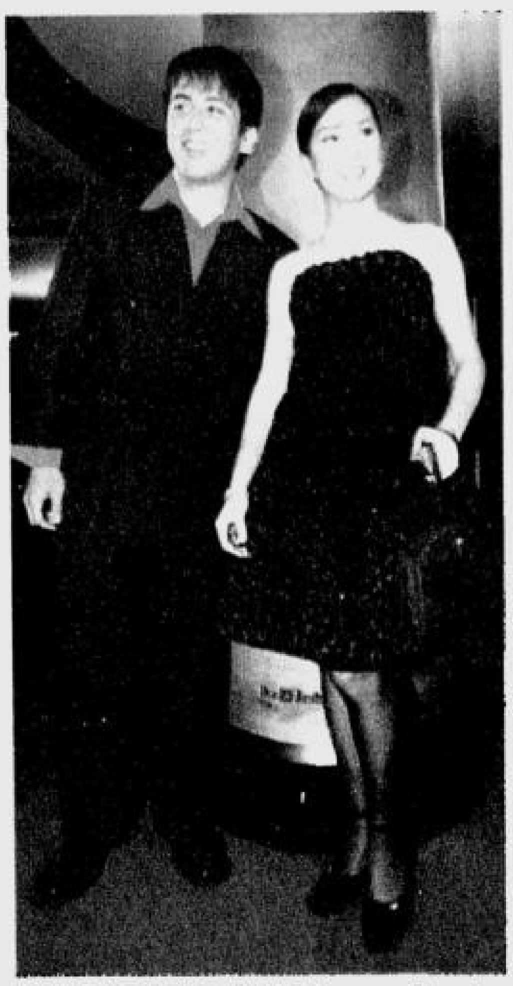
**BLAH... ZZZ...** Glydel Mercado and Maritoni Fernandez in utterly boring look-alike gowns.



**ONCE AROUND.** Lucy Torres, with husband Richard Gomez, wears a red tube gown with Inno Sotto-inspired round cutouts sprinkled with Swarovski beads by Randy Ortiz.



***UKAY-UKAY* LOOK.** Seasoned actresses Gina Alajar and Amy Austria in ill-fitting gowns.



**BUST FROM THE PAST.** Roxanne Barcelo, with a badly dressed Biboy Ramirez, tries but fails to relive '50s glam in a strapless, A-line dress made of black rosettes.

But trust Sotto to put a twist on a seemingly simple creation. For instance, he reserved drama on the back by allowing portions of Maricel's fair skin to peek from two loose panels that began below the back of the neck and ended along the waist.

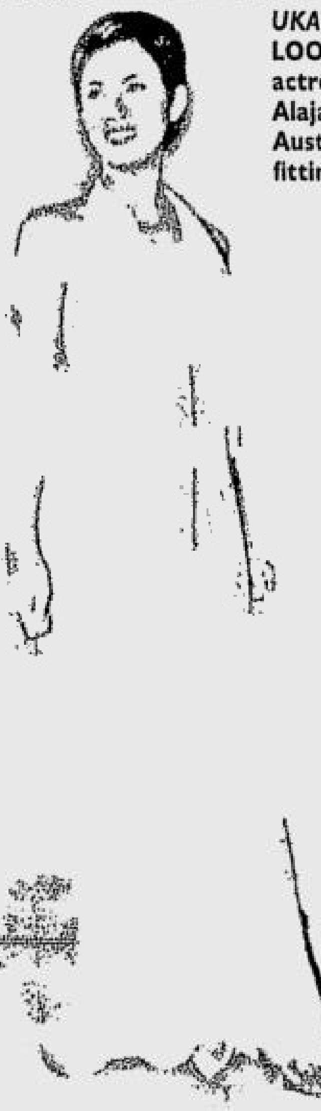
Lucy Torres slipped into Randy Ortiz's red tube gown with round cutouts sprinkled with Swarovski beads—very Sotto, circa 2000. As usual, the lovely Ms Gomez looked smashing in red.

Gelli de Belen wore a lime green silk chiffon halter with a draped lapel and train also by Ortiz.

### Better with time

Lorna Tolentino didn't allow the Manunuri's apparent snub of her movie "Abakada... Ina" to dampen her mood. Rather than sulk at home, she graced the affair in Paul Cabral's spaghetti-strapped gown accented with stretch tulle and bursts of Swarovski beadwork on the chest and back.

Again, the black jersey was a testament to Cabral's mastery of construction. The skirt, for instance, appeared seamless but was actually made up of six pieces or panels from the lower bodice down to the hem. Instead of ordinary lining, he used another layer of black jersey to spare LT of any unsightly or unwanted bulges. Some women just look better with time, and Lorna is definitely one of them.



**"GAGAY" NO MORE.** A more mature but still perky Gelli de Belen wears a lime green silk chiffon with a draped lapel and train by Randy Ortiz.

Sadly, we couldn't say the same thing about LT's friends Gina Alajar and Amy Austria—not that they were wanting in the looks department. In fact, Amy looked young for her age, while Gina glowed and appeared to have lost weight since her separation from husband Michael de Mesa.

Their attires, however, wreaked havoc on their respective statures. Gina looked like she just emerged from Baguio's *ukay-ukay* with a taffeta number that crumpled and puckered every which way—from the arms, to the bodice and down to the skirt.

Ditto for Amy who slipped, in more ways than one, in an ill-fitting taffeta blouse with a Sabrina neckline and a Cameron Diaz-inspired floral-printed skirt.

What about Gloria Diaz? Did she leave her sheer poncho at home or has she become oblivious to how hefty her arms have become? The former Miss Universe is still a looker despite her age, but she needs to exercise and lift weights pronto to ward off the effects of gravity.

And that goes for all. Even a pretty young thing like Assunta needs to constantly work at it to stay ahead of the race and look the part.

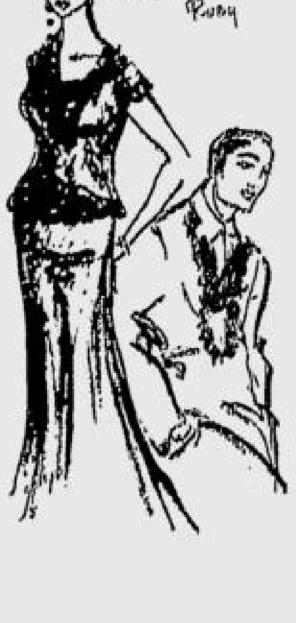
*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*

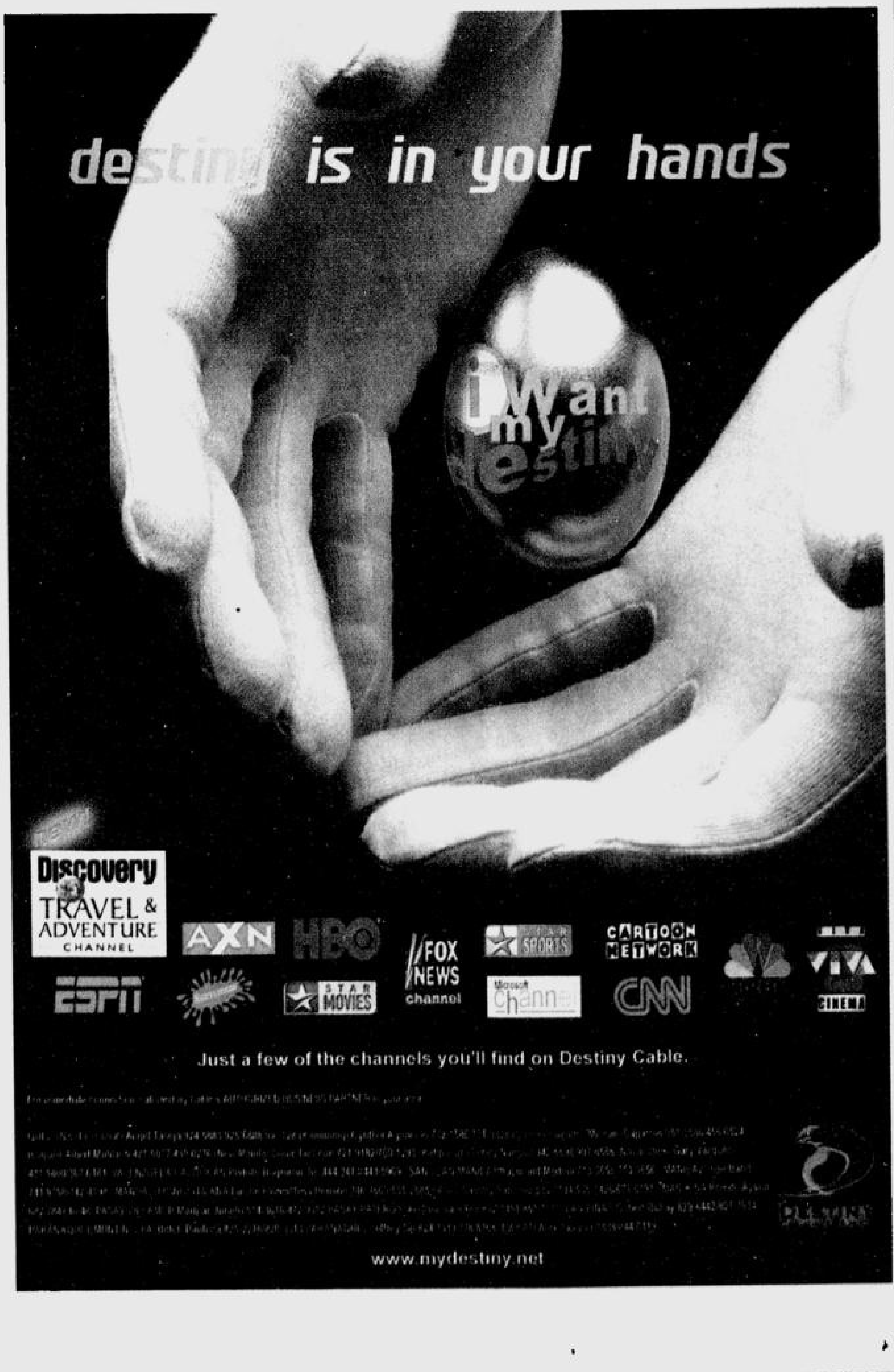
# UP jubilarians to wear Moreno creations

FASHION czar Pitoy Moreno will create the attires of jubilarians of the University of the Philippines' grand alumni homecoming and reunion on June 15, 4 p.m., at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman.

Ruby alumna (class of 1962) will be decked in red short-sleeved organza *kimona* edged with red embroidery on the sleeves, neckline and lower part of the *kimona*. A matching red crepe will be used for the shirt. Ruby alumnus will wear an off-white barong with red embroidery around the pechera, matched with off-white pants. A red medal of honor hangs on a red cord.

The jubilarians may call Pitoy Moreno's studio at 525-2603 or the UP Alumni Association Secretariat at 920-6871 or 929-8327.





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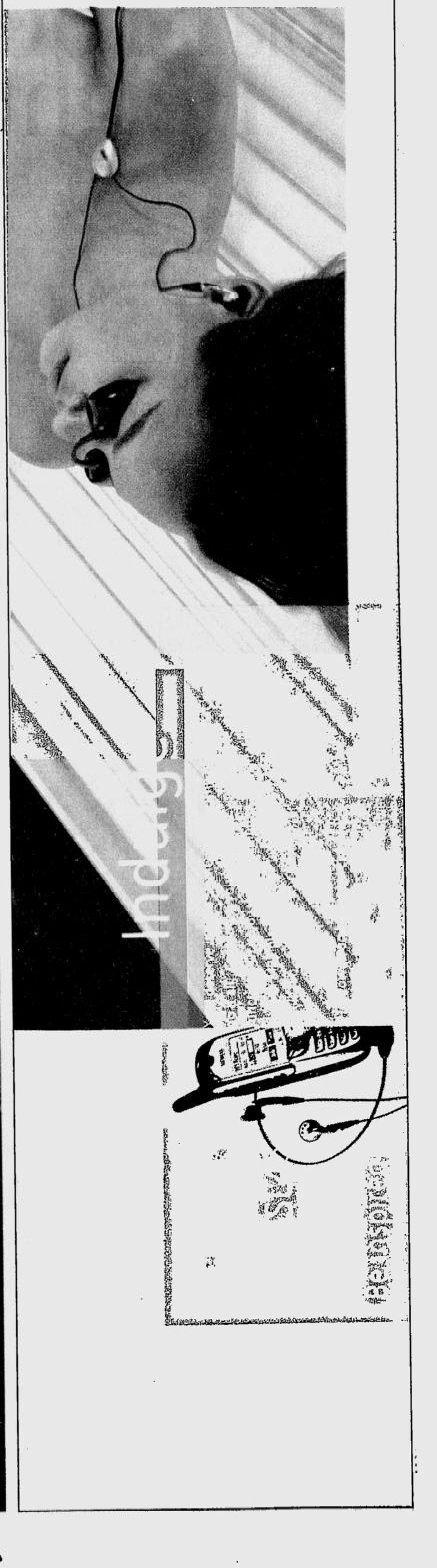
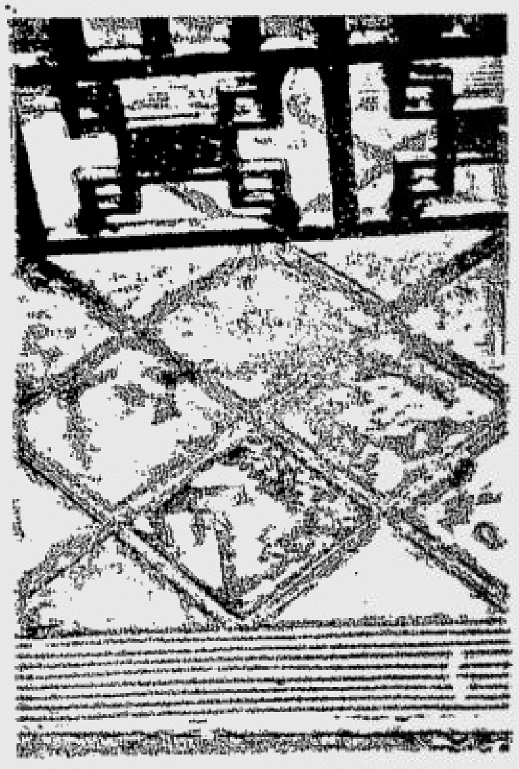
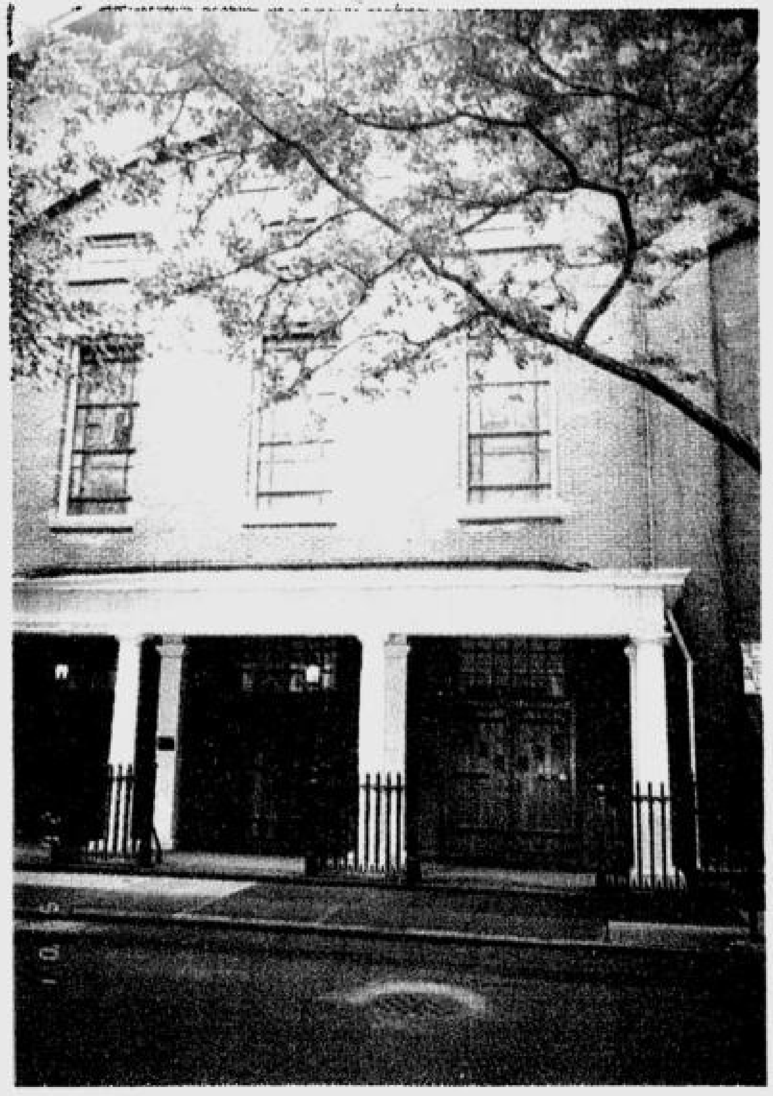




**GLASS** panes in pavement to facilitate delivery of coal into the basement in the 19th century

**ON THE FRINGE** of Brooklyn Heights, in a quaint chapel dedicated to St. Elizabeth Seton, first American saint

**DR PETER** Purpura, Sean Connery look-alike, at home among his art treasures



**ITALIANATE** Plymouth Church where Henry Beecher, brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe ("Uncle Tom's Cabin") preached and hid slaves from their masters.

# The charm of Old Brooklyn Heights

**By Lin Acacio-Flores**
*Contributor*

AUTUMN in New York" with Richard Gere and Winona Ryder is just one of the movies shot in Old Brooklyn Heights, just across Brooklyn Bridge from Manhattan. Almost every day, one or two movie vans park on Joralemon, Willow or Pineapple Street.

Whenever we visited our son Joey, a doctor with the Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn Heights, we would walk the tree-lined streets in the evening, feeling as if we had somehow traveled back into a more peaceful era. Here, on Cranberry Street, the poet Walt Whitman lived for a few years as a child, and returned to have his "Leaves of Grass" printed in a building on Fulton Street in 1855.

About 619 brownstone and brick buildings, mostly residential, were built in the 1800s by prosperous landowners. These buildings stand wall-to-wall, street after street. Stairways march in parallel lines from the sidewalks, beside flowering courtyard gardens, up to friezed, columned doorways. Lighted lamps standing at curtained windows speak of families cozily sitting at home.

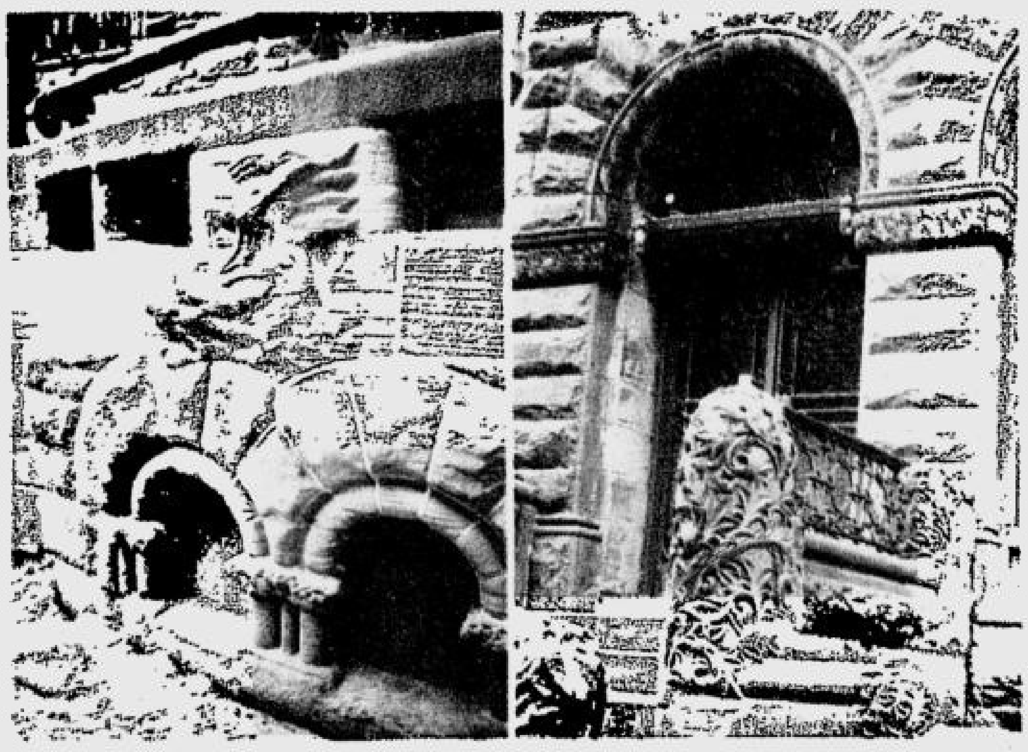
Turning a corner, we come upon still another romantic old church, its sharp spires framed by tall old trees. At one end we reach the Esplanade, a walkway along the East River.

We sit on one of the tree-shaded benches, and gaze at the Statue of Liberty at the far right. Just across the river is Manhattan. We realize with a start that the skyline there is now minus the World Trade Center's twin towers.

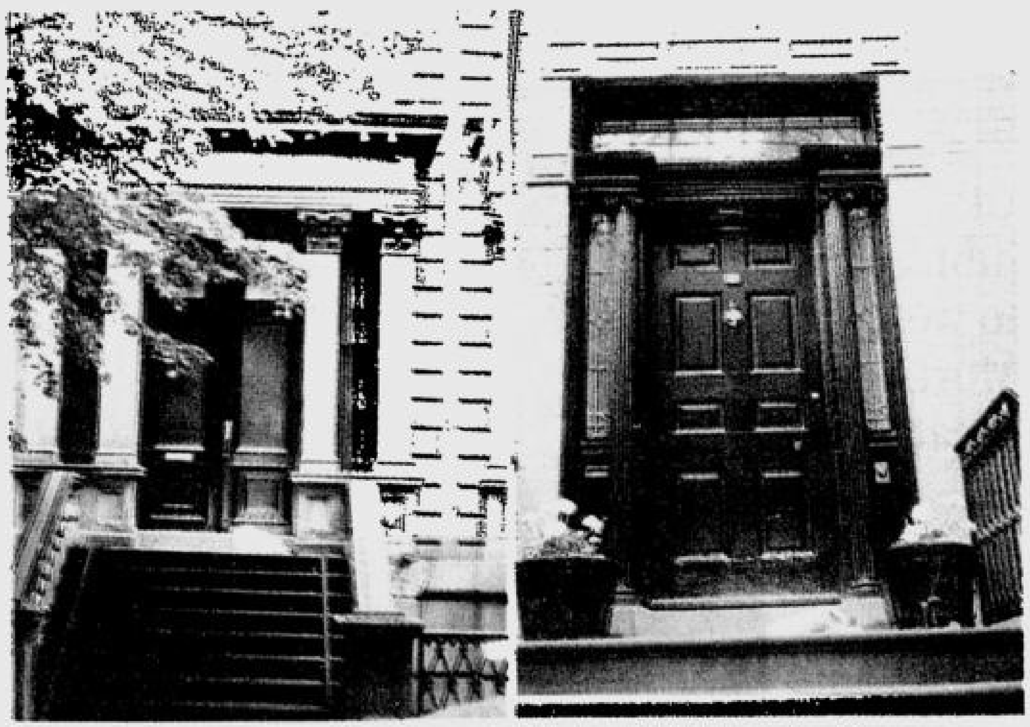
It is quiet on this side, as if nothing can ever disturb it. One doesn't see or hear the traffic of the two levels of the Brooklyn-Queens Ex-

The quaint location that has been the setting for many Hollywood romances holds lessons for a Manila intent on effacing its cultural landmarks

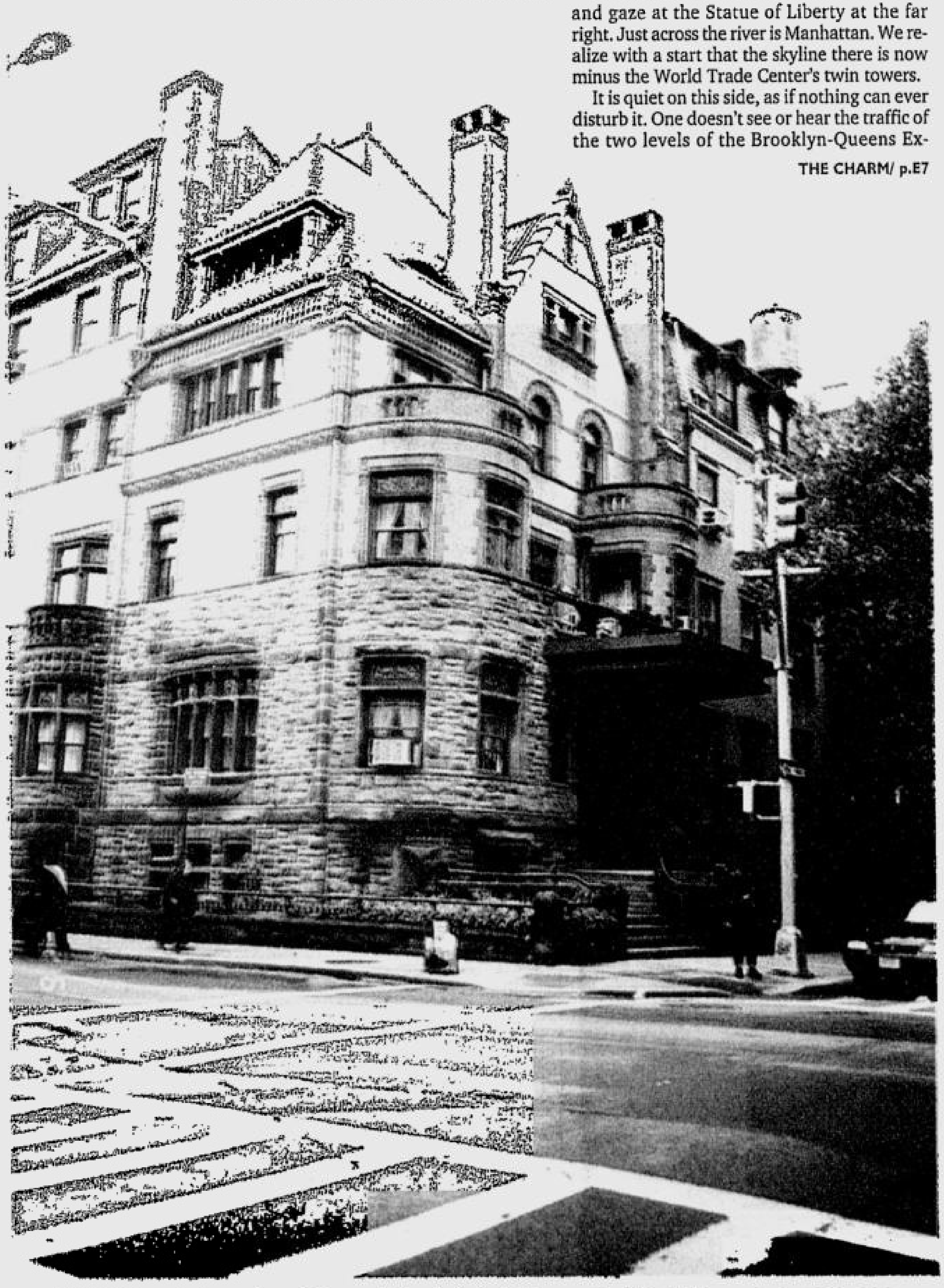
THE CHARM/ p.E7



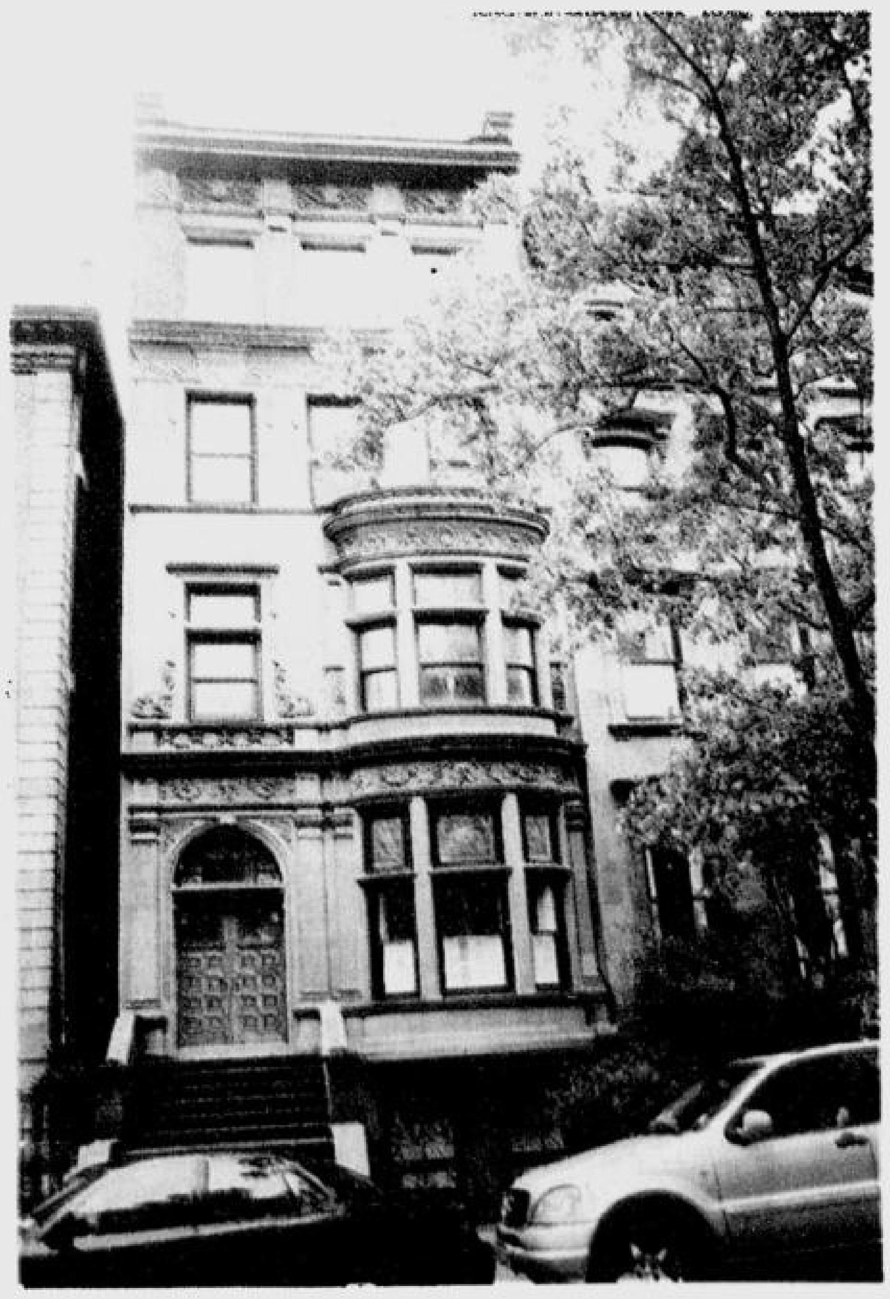
**STYLIZED** vines on round column, arches and gargoyle carved from soapstone show ravage of the years (Behr mansion).



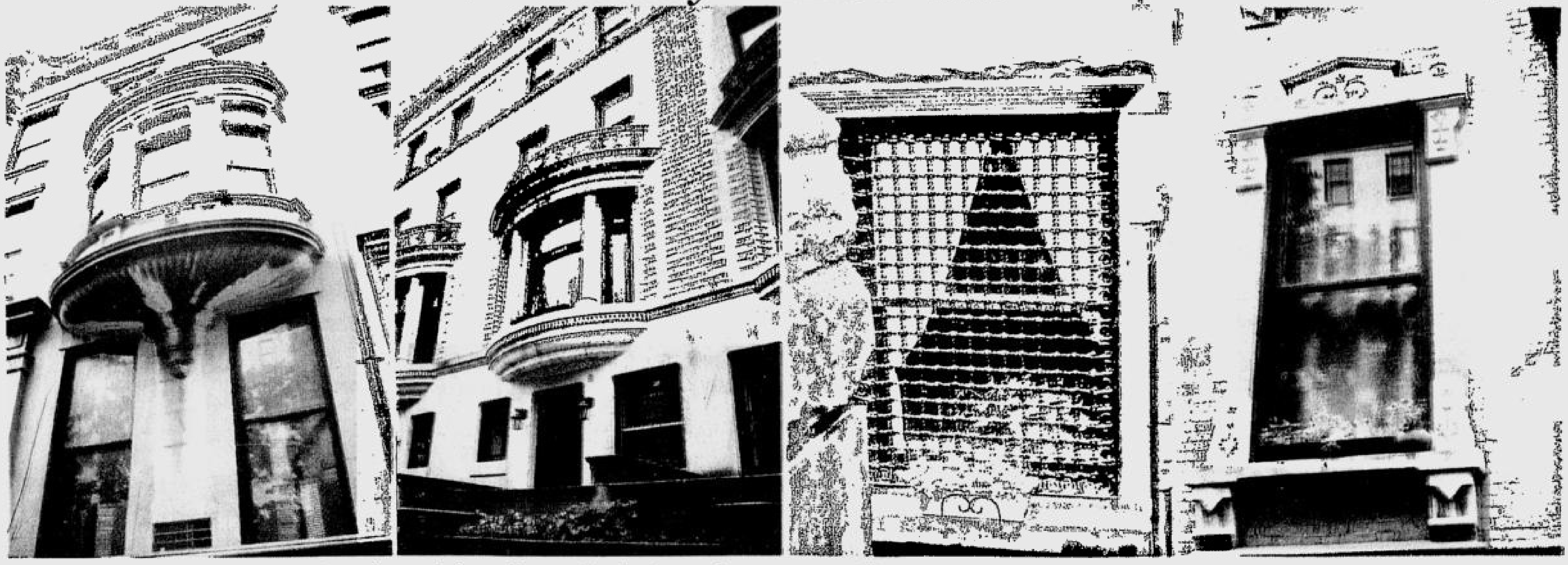
**GREEK** Revival: Panelled doors with Greek columns, glass ships at the sides



**ROMANESQUE** Revival mansion of Herman Behr, built in 1890, now the Hotel Palm



**FOUR** floors, each with different friezes above and beside windows



**ROMANTIC** windows: fan-ribbed bay, columned, wrought-iron grill resembling fine lace work, or stone carved like paper cut-outs.

# The charm of Old Brooklyn Heights

**From page E6**

pressway unless one leans over the railing at the side of the walkway to peer underneath. The Esplanade was purposely cantilevered over the expressway.

On a drizzly spring morning, Dr. Peter Purpura, psychologist, offers to be our guide. Leisurely walking along the bluestone-paved sidewalks, he points out that this building is in the Federal style, that one Romanesque or Renaissance. We are drawn to note the varied styles that come together to create the magic that is uniquely Old Brooklyn's.

Dr. Purpura's roots reach back all the way to Sicily, but he grew up in Brooklyn Heights and chooses to live in one of its preserved buildings. His pride of heritage shows, and it must have been a similar pride that prodded private citizens to fight for the conservation of the heritage buildings that were threatened by demolition teams in the 1950s.

The yuppies of those times spearheaded the preservation of Old Brooklyn Heights, New York's first suburb. They were lawyers, doctors, architects, writers, businessmen and women who wanted to raise their children in a peaceful place and at the same time live near the city nucleus that is Manhattan.

Through a tedious process that spanned seven years, the residents, numbering several thousands, worked to have Old Brooklyn Heights declared a Historic District by the Department of the Interior and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1965, they achieved victory, even as it came too late to save from demolition, among others, Walt Whitman's house, the Venetian Gothic Mercantile Library and the French Renaissance Hotel Touraine.

The remaining houses are mostly family homes. Re-use of buildings goes on. The Venetian-Gothic St. Anne's Church, brown stonework banded horizontally with white, had housed offices. Now it is to be a school.

This brings to mind the situation right here in Manila. The old ancestral homes in Quiapo are in peril, and so are our larger historic buildings like the Metropolitan Theater.

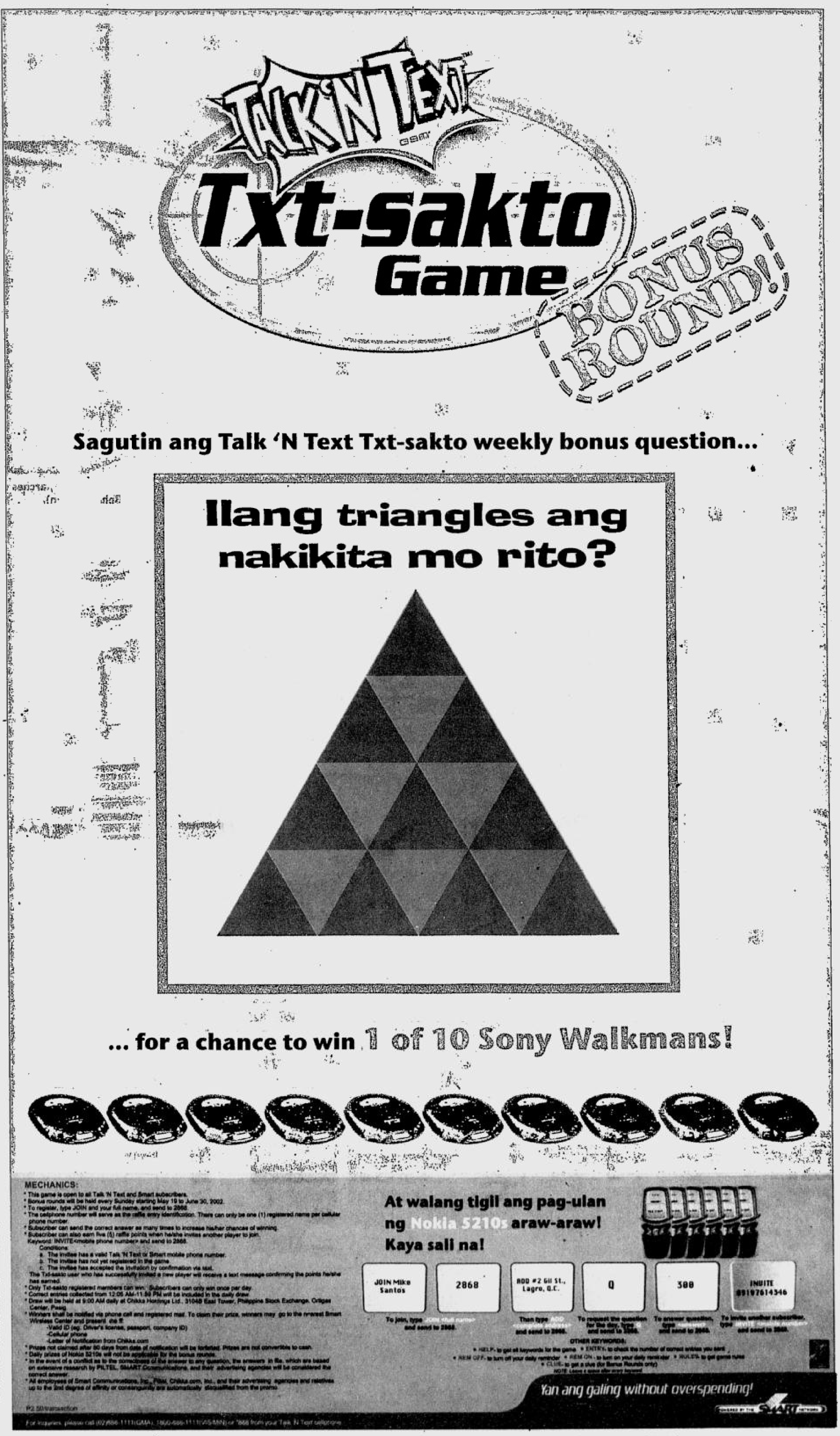
The mayor of Manila is being watched closely. Ignoring protests and pickets of the Heritage Conservation Society, he demolished the superb Art Deco Jai Alai Building just because it was old. He built the Park-and-Ride monstrosity on a part of the historic Mehan Gardens and is planning to build the City College of Manila on the remaining portion, even as the National Historical Institute has declared it an archaeological site, being part of the old Parian.

Alternative sites for the college have been proposed to Mayor Lito Atienza. He has already chopped down century-old trees in Mehan despite a restraining order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The Earth Day Movement, Foundation for Philippine Environment, Artists for Environment and the Winner Foundation are among those in the private sector who are now keeping the mayor's moves under surveillance. May they be as successful as the concerned citizens of Old Brooklyn Heights.

Obliterate our heritage and you maim the Filipino soul beyond repair. It's so easy to see that.

**OLD Brooklyn melting pot: Russian Dr. Lawrence Fordjour and Dr. Joey Flores**



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Sunday LIFESTYLE

**PAOLO Picazo with his bride Selina Kuok**

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# Couple makes wedding vows on Island of the Gods

**By Mary Rose Peña**
*Contributor*

FAMILY members and friends traveled to Bali, the Island of the Gods, to witness the intimate wedding of Paolo Picazo, son of Ramon and Cynthia Picazo, to Selina Kuok, daughter of Chye and Ayesha Kuok. From the warm Balinese welcome at the airport to the grandiose wedding reception, Paolo and Selina gave their 147 guests memories and adventures to last them a lifetime.

Guests got the royal treatment from the moment they arrived at the Denpasar airport. They had rooms with a view of the ocean or private villas at the sprawling Ritz Carlton Hotel at Jimbaran or the majestic Nikko Bali Resort and Spa at Nun Dual.

The groom's parents hosted a dinner reception for the guests on May 9 at the mystical Legian Hotel. Guests came down a candlelit story-high staircase between infinity falls to the well-manicured hotel garden lit with paper lanterns and scattered with frangipani, set against the soaring waves of Seminyak Beach. At the foot of the steps, warm embraces from Ramon and Cynthia awaited them. The couple's parents hopped from table to table and exchanged pleasantries with the guests.

It was an occasion for old friends to be reunited. Lulu Tinio, David Tinio, Teyet Pascual, Jiro Estaniel, Paolo's *ninongs* Cesi and Bogie Lorenzo, *ninangs* Deane Ramoso and Margie Lorenzo and cousin Martin Lorenzo were delighted to join Hong Kong-based Filipinos Noel Escaler, Mariko Jacinto, George and Pinky Forrai, Gabby and Maritess Panlilio, Manny and Babes Tordesillas and Johnson and Linda Lung. New friendships were also forged. Cora DaSilva and Ina, Nemy and Minda Pulumbarit spent the evening discovering family ties and relations. World-renowned feng shui guru Lillian Too and her husband, Wan Jin, entertained guests at their table with geomantic business and domestic advice. The wit and humor of California-based cousin Elvira Espino charmed family and friends.

The intimate wedding rites on the morning of May 11 started with the traditional Chinese tea ceremony at the Bratan Room of the Ritz Carlton. The groom was dashing in a traditional *barong tagalog*. Selina was a vision in a simple, svelte light aqua cheongsam. During the ceremony, bride and groom offered sweet lotus tea to every family member and wished for acceptance of their union. The Kuok family, family friend Marietta Santos, and relatives from Canada and the United States, drank lotus tea as a sign of their approval of the marriage. They extended to the couple their best wishes, offered advice and presented gifts.

COUPLE/ p.F2

**MARIETTA Santos, Tom Zita and Cathy Zita**

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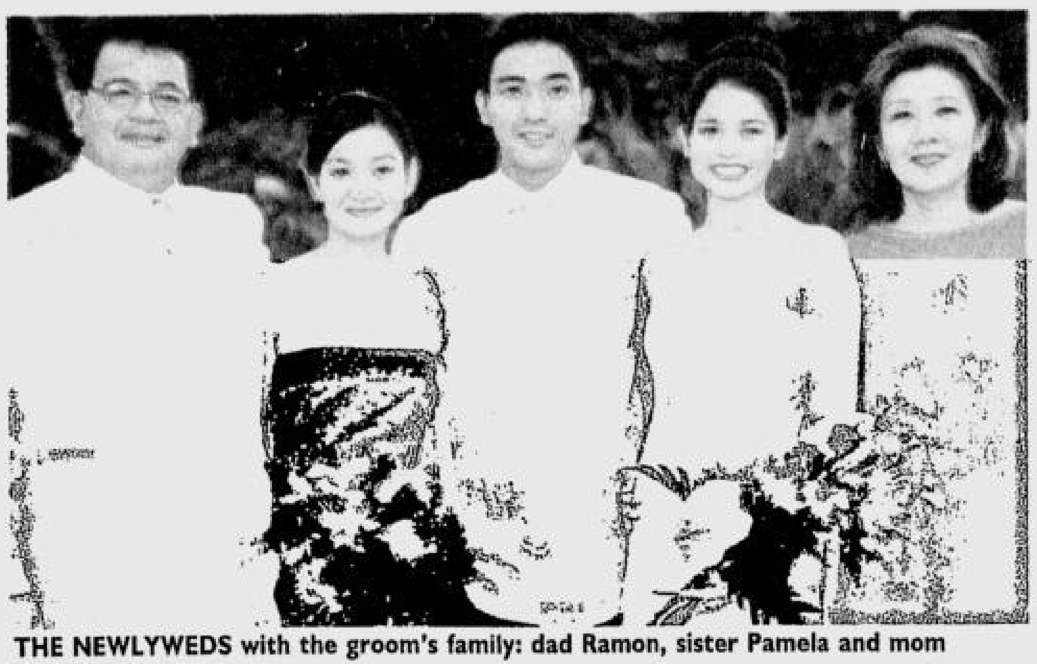
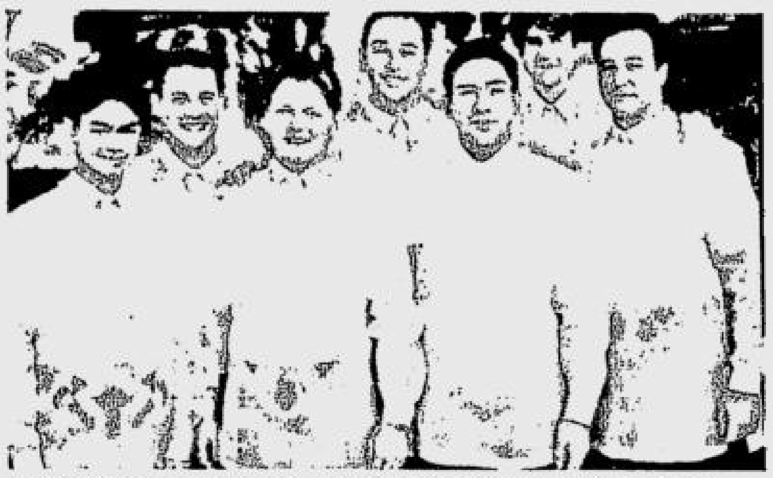


**THE NEWLYWEDS** with the groom's family: dad Ramon, sister Pamela and mom Cynthia Picazo

**THE GROOM** and bride

**GINA** Ordoñez, Cora da Silva, Linda Leung and Johnson Leung



**JUSTIN** Kuok, Henry Lee, Daniel Green (best man), Anthony Jacobson, the groom, Ross Peet and Max Federbush

# Couple makes wedding vows on Island of the Gods

**WITH WAN** Jin Too, Noel Escaler, Mariko Jacinto, Nenita Gapud and Lilian Too

**THE WEDDING DINNER HOSTED BY THE PICAZOS.** Ramon Picazo, Johnson Leung, Linda Leung, Margie S. Lorenzo, Minda Pulumbarit, Nemy Pulumbarit, Cynthia L. Picazo, Cesi B. Lorenzo Jr. and Cora da Silva

**THE GROOM** with Ina Pulumbarit

**BRIDE** and groom offering tea to the groom's parents.

From page F1

The seven odd-year romance of Paolo and Selina spanned two continents. They first met at the University of Pennsylvania. The romance blossomed in Hong Kong, culminating in a solemn and simple Catholic wedding ceremony at the *nipa*-covered Canang Sari Gazebo of the Ritz Carlton. Paolo and Selina's friends and classmates at the University of Pennsylvania flew in from Hong Kong, India, England and United States to attend the ceremony.

Guests walked on a carpet of rose petals and were treated to a cliff-side view of the dramatic Indian Ocean. Barong-clad best man Dan Green and groomsmen Maxwell Federbush, Ross Peet and Justin Kuok, and ushers Anthony Jacobson and Rishi Shahdadpuri escorted guests to their seats. Maids of honor Caroline Evascu and Kim Kuok, and bridesmaids Polly Ko and Pamela Picazo, the groom's sister, were ravishing in their deep red bustier dresses.

The debonair groom, in an intricately embroidered barong tagalog, led the wedding march, followed by his equally charming father. Groomsman Federbush escorted the groom's mother, who was dressed in an elegant tri-color aqua gown. The bride's mother, in a lovely tangerine gown, was ushered to the grounds by her son, Justin.

The bride wore an elegant white satin bustier gown and glided down the petal-covered aisle escorted by her dashing father. Everyone was teary-eyed when Chye finally presented his daughter to Paolo. The couple radiated love as they stood before the altar.

The couple sealed their union with a kiss, which was perfectly timed to coincide with the dramatic sunset across the majestic Indian Ocean.

After the ceremony, Balinese dancers led the guests in a procession to the Angin Aris lawn, decked in red Chinese lanterns, for cocktails and canapés. Close friends of Selina and Paolo—Tania Shao, Joanna Berger, Louisa Lee, Jason and Heather Henthorne, Steve and Alicia Bronstein, Vayu and Mayuri Garware and Cynthia Hubbard, among others—extended their best wishes to the newlyweds. Guests paused in their celebration to admire the blue-orange hues of sea and dusk.

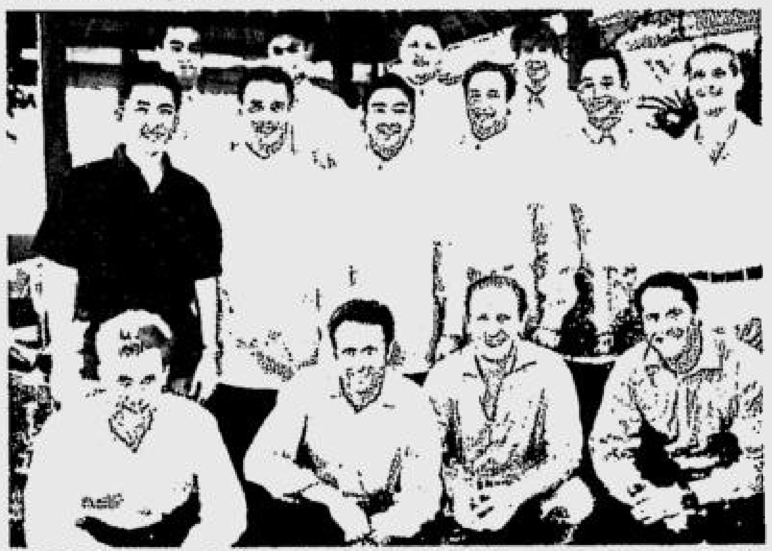
After the cocktails, guests were escorted to the Langit Theater for the lavish wedding reception. What seemed to be a mile-long table held 28 sumptuous entrées and 10 mouthwatering desserts. Guests feasted on Balinese roast duck wrapped in banana leaf, barbecued prawns and smoked *mahi mahi*, among others.

Balinese dancers guided guests after dinner to the main ballroom for dancing and singing. Singing members of the family entertained guests with several surprise numbers. Noel Escaler and Mariko Jacinto impressed everyone with their rousing version of the mambo.

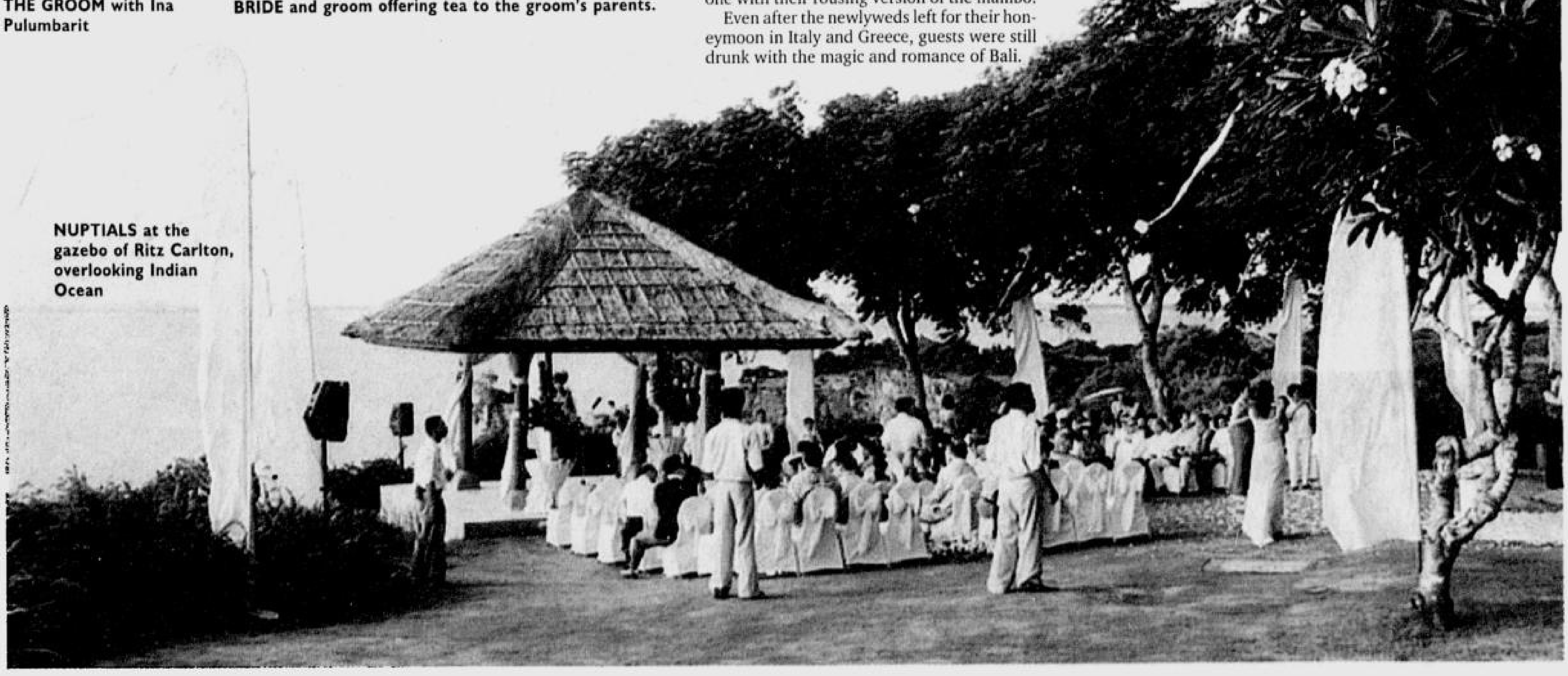
Even after the newlyweds left for their honeymoon in Italy and Greece, guests were still drunk with the magic and romance of Bali.

**STANDING,** from left, Jiro Estaniel, Cynthia and Ramon Picazo; seated, Teyet Pascual, Lulu and David Tinio

**THE NEWLYWEDS** with their parents Ramon and Cynthia Picazo, and Ayesha and Chye Kuok



**PAOLO'S** fraternity brothers from the University of Pennsylvania



**NUPTIALS** at the gazebo of Ritz Carlton, overlooking Indian Ocean

# Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish marks 431$^{st}$ year of the finding of Virgin's image

**PURELY PERSONAL**

*Josephine Darang*

SINCE he was seven years old, Tony Adriano has been a devotee of Nuestra Señora de Guia, patroness of Ermita. Adriano, whose parents' house was a walking distance to the church, woke up early in the mornings to serve at Mass as a sacristan.

Even as early as then, the Blessed Mother already had a plan for him. Adriano did not know that; all he knew was that he was going to serve Her as his "recamadero" when he grew up.

Today, Adriano is the pastoral council president of Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish, a lector and lay minister. Most important of all, he is the "recamadero" of the Virgin, especially on its fiesta today when he has to dress Her up for the Masses and procession.

"When I dress Her up, I can feel Her presence. It is as if She is reaching out to me. I cannot stop the tears from flowing. It was as if the Virgin is telling me not to worry, that She will take care of my problems."

To Adriano, the Virgin is his mother. She assures him that what Jesus said "about not being afraid if He is with us" is true.

Msgr. Jerome Reyes, parish priest, will lead the people in the celebration of the 431$^{st}$ anniversary of the finding of the image of Nuestra Señora de Guia by a Spanish soldier on May 19, 1571, on the spot where the church is now. Dr. Carol Rogge, this year's "hermana mayor" is a devotee whose office at Northwest Placements is right across the church.

### Nuestra Señora de Guia heals the sick

I remember when I was confined at the PGH in 1983 for dehydration, the "estampita" of Nuestra Señora de Guia was under my pillow. I would clutch Her "estampita" and pray to Her, asking Her to help me and heal me.

Two years later, I found the right doctor to operate on me at the UST Hospital in the person of Dr. Willie Olalia. I had the "estampita" for a long time.

Now I serve in Her church as lector and commentator. I will be one of the thousands who will flock to Her church for the Masses every hour on May 19, Sunday. At 5 p.m. of the same day, there will be a "bota flores" when the "capitanas" will lead in the flower offering. The "capitanas" are Angelique Cara Exconde and Nikka Aquino.

### Image in Laurel, Batangas

A replica image of Nuestra Señora de Guia visited the Immaculate Conception Parish in Laurel, Batangas last October. Brought by Tony Adriano, the image was welcomed by Fr. Rene Ramos, parish priest and Laurel Mayor Natalio Panganiban.

The Virgin was crowned with jewels offered by the people of Laurel, and brought in a procession around the town as an expression of thanksgiving for the blessings received by the town through Her miraculous intercession.

### Nuestra Señora de la Paz in Pasig

The people in De La Paz, Pasig City has a new chapel dedicated to Nuestra Señora de la Paz (Our Lady of Peace). Located on Fr. Mariano Avenue, the chapel was blessed by Fr. Salvador Yun, parish priest of Sto. Tomas de Villanueva Church.

Cutting the ceremonial ribbon were Sally Dormido, chair of the mini-pastoral council and *Kapitan* Cresenta Victoriano, worship committee chair; and Bobby Eusebio representing Mayor Soledad Eusebio.

The lot where the chapel stands was donated by the family of Concepcion Fernando, who unveiled the marker read by Rebecca Fernando Trinidad.

A concelebrated Mass was said by Fr. Buddy Yun, Fr. James Gomes, CSC, and Fr. Kuni Garganta. The following day was fiesta day. After the Mass and procession in the evening, fireworks lit up the sky courtesy of *Kagawad* Fabie Enriquez.

### "Ina" in St. Jerome Church today

The pilgrim image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia will visit St. Jerome Emiliani Church in Alabang today until tomorrow. Then, it will proceed to Basilica de San Lorenzo Ruiz in Binondo on May 21.

On May 22, she goes to St. Andrew Church in La Huerta, Parañaque; May 23, Our Lady of the Pillar Church in Pilar Village; May 24, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Posadas Village; and May 25 and 26, Mary Help of Christians Parish in Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque.

### Be devoted to the Virgin Mary

In his homily during the "Ina's" visit in Greenbelt Chapel, Fr. Rey Reyes, a Paulinian priest, advised the people to be devoted to the Blessed Virgin. "Be devoted to Her," he said. "She will help you in every way. She is strong with her Son Jesus. Do not worry if trouble comes or trials and suffering beset you. Jesus has overcome the world. As He promised you too will overcome the world."

### Be a listener like Her

In his advice to the Cofradia de Nuestra Señora de la Soledad de Porta Vaga, Imus Bishop Chito Tagle said, "Be like the Blessed Mother, be a listener when someone wants to pour out her or his feelings to you. People just need someone to listen to them." Bishop Chito also said that the Blessed Mother is a symbol of hope. "We have a mother who understands," he said. "She lifts us from despair to hope."

### Dance of worship

Since time immemorial, dance has always been an expression of worship. As early as the time of Jesus, people danced in the streets accompanying Him when He entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey.

In primeval times, ethnic tribes have their own rituals in worshipping a deity or god. In present day Church, many of our dances of worship date back to Spanish times.

In his latest book "Sayaw," New York-based Ronnie Alejandro (with photos by Amanda Abad Santos-Gana) shows all these with a whole chapter on dance as worship.

Published by Anvil and National Bookstore, the book will be launched on May 29 at the main lobby of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. It is available at National Bookstore.

### Help for kids' schooling

Antonietta Estolas needs a miracle to be able to send her children to school: two in college and two in high school. She wrote me from Culion, Palawan asking for help.

Aling Antonietta earns a living by washing clothes. Please beep me at Easy Call 141-020543 if you want to reach out to them.

### Goodbye, Lorna Montilla

When I got back from Boac last May 12, I learned that Lorna Montilla had passed away. Lorna belongs to an older generation of writers, but her stories written in her charming, poignant style always touched us even when we were just starting.

In life, she was a survivor, hard to crack as they say. But she also let the tears flow; then she would smile and be happy again.

May your soul rest in peace, Lorna. I know you are happy where you are.

### LSS at Manila Seedling Bank

The Spirit of Love Community will hold an LSS on May 25-26. For details, call Sister Myrna at tel. 929-3092.

**NUESTRA Señora de Guia**

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

# Fair is a one-stop shop for wedding and other items

THE PENINSULA Manila, in cooperation with events organizer Rita Neri of The Wedding Store, presents "2002 Events at The Pen" May 24-25 at the Rigodon Ballroom, the Upper Lobby and the Gallery.

The fair will again feature corporate and social events organizers and planners in the Philippines. It will be a veritable one-stop shop featuring the top names in corporate giveaways and luxury retail purveyors. Experts in bridal fashions, floral design, invitation printing and engraving, makeup, keepsakes, photography, cakes, shoes and accessories will give advice.

In keeping with its tradition of pioneering innovations, The Pen will introduce the "2002 Events at The Pen 50 for 50 Benefit Auction," 6 p.m., May 24 at the Rigodon Ballroom. With theater actor-director Freddie Santos as auctioneer, visitors can bid for gowns, flower set-ups, cruise tickets, videography services and other exciting items at a starting price of P50. Proceeds of the auction will go to charity.

The fair will be capped by two fashion shows on May 25 at the Rigodon Ballroom featuring Maidenform, JC Buendia, Mel Vergel de Dios, Njork, Gerry Katigbak, Vittorio Barba, Natori, Edgar Madamba, Len Nepomuceno-Guia, Patrice Ramos Diaz, Randy Ortiz, and Paul Cabral. The shows will be at 4 and 7 p.m.

Major sponsors are Northwest Airlines, Calciumade, Athena, Star Cruises, Maidenform, Natori, Canon, 1816 Flowers, Event Styling and Joey 92.3.

The Peninsula Manila's fair is open to the public. Contact 887-2888 locals 2236 and 2914 or The Wedding Store at 893-0534 or 840-1897.

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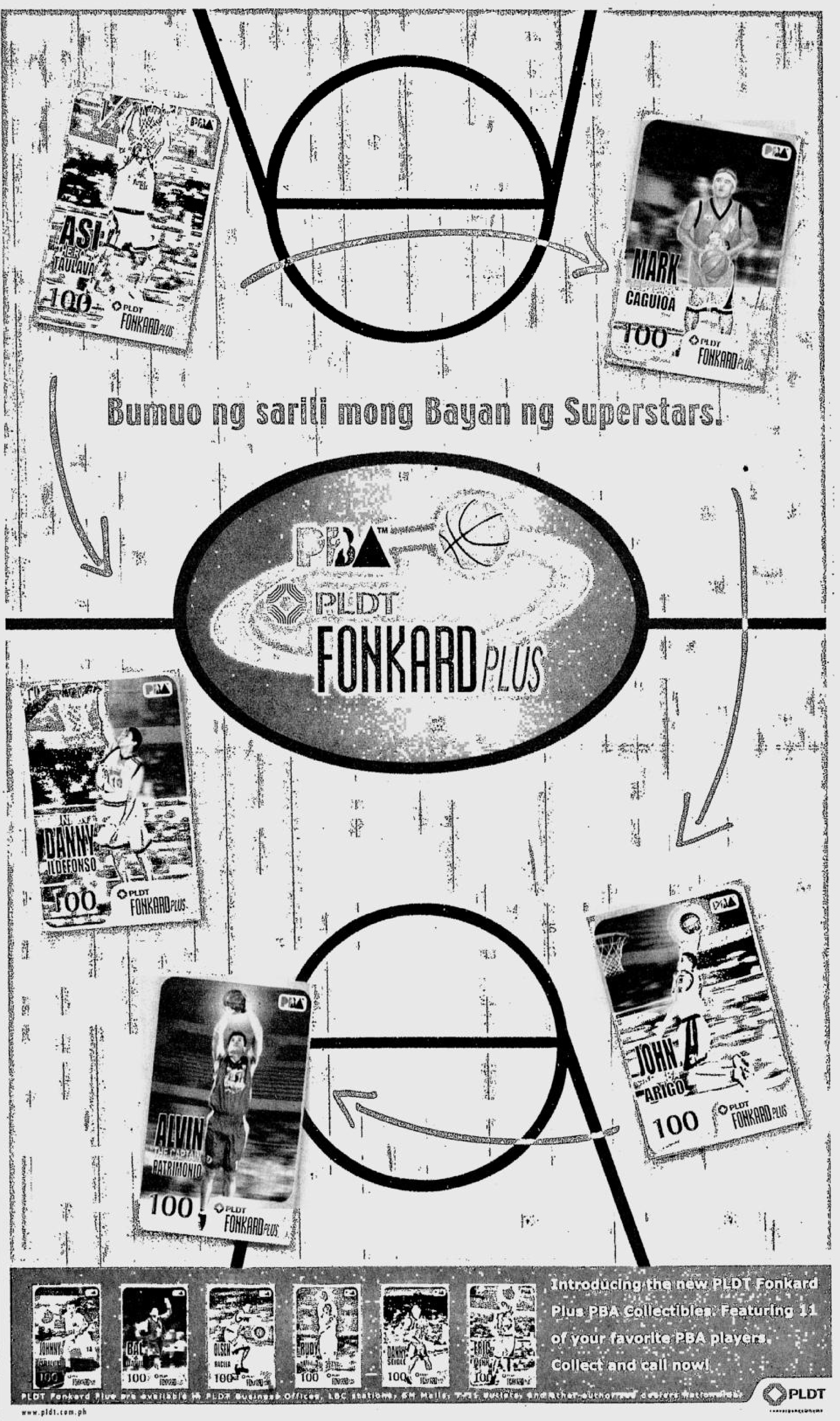

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HOW TO JOIN: Key in QUIZspaceJOINspace<name>/<address> and send to 288. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS: Key in QUIZspace<question number>space<answer> and send to 288. For more info, key in HELP QUIZ and send to 288.

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# Milestones

*We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*

## BACERO-BARBOSA

**Michael D. Bacero**, son of **Leopoldo** (deceased) and **Mercedes Bacero**, will wed **Rosalee G. Barbosa**, daughter of **Rodolfo** and **Gliceria Barbosa**, on June 9 at the Manila Cathedral. Reception will be held at the Coconut Palace. **Zhet Guzman** and **Veluz Reyes** designed the gowns.

## SANTOS-GOSIENGFIAO

**Melanie Gosiengfiao**, daughter of **Mario** (deceased) and **Zenaida Gosiengfiao**, wed **Ricky G. Santos**, son of Mr. and Ms **Enrique G. Santos**, on March 9 at the Shrine of Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life. Reception was at the Maynila of the Manila Hotel.

## CRUZ-MANTUA

**Rolly Mantua**, son of Mr. and Ms **Dominador T. Mantua**, married **Carol Cruz**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Danilo B. Cruz**, on March 17 at the Parish of the Hearts of Jesus & Mary, West Triangle, QC. Reception was held at Albergus. **David Anorma** designed the gown.

## ALICAN ANNIVERSARY

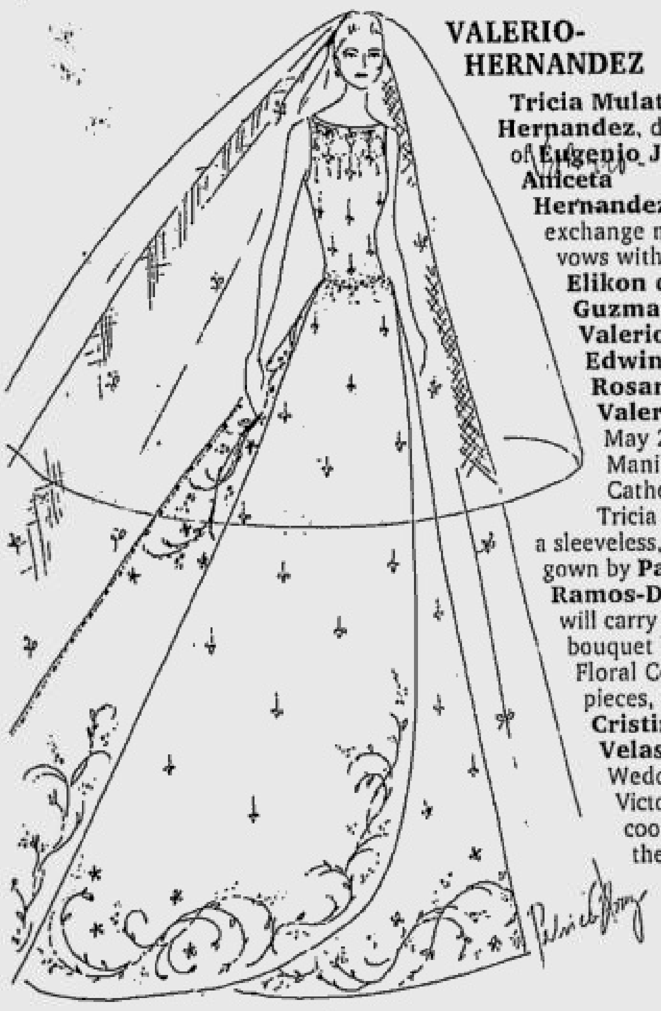
**Francisco "Frankie" Alican** and **Tessie Espinoze Alican** will mark their 25th year of marriage today, May 19, at St. Pancratius Chapel, Paco Park, Manila. A thanksgiving dinner will follow at the Paco Park Garden.

## PASCO-URIARTE

**Benjie Mateo Pasco**, son of **Ernesto** and **Lourdes M. Pasco**, tied the knot with **Josephine Tobias Uriarte**, daughter of **Jose** and **Ofelia T. Uriarte**, on May 18 at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart in San Antonio Village, Makati City. Reception was held at the Dusit Hotel Nikko.

## LYN-LEGAL

**Ramon Ellery Lyn**, son of **Dorothy O. Lyn** of Tamarac, Florida, USA, and **Margaret Rose A. Legal**, daughter of **Rogelio** and **Josephine Legal** of Marikina City, exchanged wedding vows on April 4 before Judge **Katherine Maraman** of the Superior Court of Guam. Reception followed at Sam Choy Restaurant, Guam.



## VALERIO-HERNANDEZ

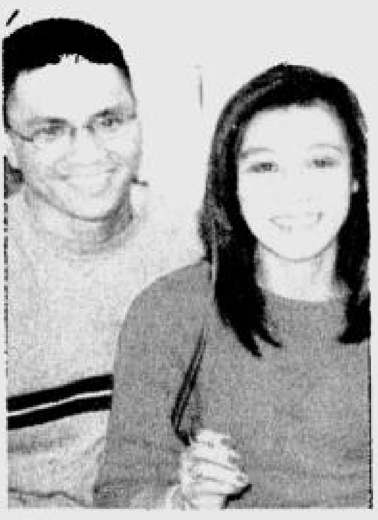
**Tricia Mulato Hernandez**, daughter of **Eugenio Jr.** and **Aniceta Hernandez**, will exchange marriage vows with **Jose Elikon de Guzman Valerio**, son of **Edwin** and **Rosario Valerio**, on May 25 at the Manila Catheral. Tricia will wear a sleeveless, A-line gown by **Patrice Ramos-Diaz**. She will carry a bouquet by Sonata Floral Centerpieces, while **Cristina Velasco** of Weddings by Victoria will coordinate the affair.

## DY-MIRANO

**Deonyson Pama Dy** married **Liza Halili Mirano** March 3 at the Queen of Peace Church in Bacolod City. Officiating priests were Fr. **Patrick B. Chan** and Fr. **Emil Ascano**. Reception followed at the Ballroom of Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel. The bride wore a silvery white gown created by **Lourdes Lipa**. Deonyson is the son of **Enrique** and **Nida Dy** while the bride is the daughter of lawyer **William** and **Conchita Mirano**.

## DE TORRES-LEGAL

**Dindo Cueto de Torres**, son of **Domingo** and **Dalisay de Torres**, wed **Jocelyn Jean Arana Legal**, daughter of **Rogelio** and **Josephine Legal**, on March 1 before District Court Judge **Eileen A. Kato**, King County, Washington. Reception followed at China Harbour Restaurant in Seattle.



## GAMIDO-DE LEON

**Monina C. de Leon**, daughter of **Marcelino** and **Gloria de Leon**, wed **Richard G. Gamido**, son of **Jose** and **Evangelina Gamido**, on May 18 at the Iglesia Ni Cristo, Bel-Air, Makati City. Reception followed at the Makati Shangri-La.

## BANARES-ENCINARES

**Jhun Banares**, son of **Rodolfo Sr.** and **Vivian Banares**, and **Loretta Encinares**, daughter of **Wenceslao** (deceased) and **Magdalena Encinares**, wed on April 18 at the San Sebastian Church. Reception followed at the Executive Plaza Hotel. **Ding Pandeagua** created the gown.

## TAN-MENDOZA

**Richie Allan Tan**, son of **Tony** and **Aida Tan**, and **Catherine Joyce Mendoza**, daughter of **Alfredo** and **Nieva Mendoza**, exchanged marital vows on March 23 at the Sta. Rita de Cacia Parish Church, Philam Homes, QC.

## CULANDING-CLAMOR

**Rogelio Culanding Jr.** and **Jocelyn Clamor** wed on April 6 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish Church, Gen. Trias, Cavite. Reception followed at Josephine's Restaurant in Kawit.

## SALAMAT-RAFOLS

Maj. **Emmanuel B. Salamat**, son of (ret.) Col. **Pablo** and **Anita Salamat**, exchanged marriage vows with **Clarissa T. Rafols**, daughter of **Raymundo** and **Concepcion Rafols**, on Jan. 31 in a Christian military wedding ceremony held at Bread from Heaven Christian Fellowship Church in BF Homes, Parañaque. The rite was solemnized by Rev. Dr. **Cornelio Castillo**. Reception followed at the Alabang Country Club.

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## Bridal fair in July

"LOVE is in the Fair" will be presented by Manila Galleria Suites (MGS) with Behind the Scene Productions (BTS) in July. Once again, witness an array of beautiful gowns, lovely flower arrangements, exquisite jewelry and souvenirs, engaging fashion shows and more wedding must-haves on July 12 and 13 at the hotel's Manansala Hall.

## Learn how to plan your own wedding

POWERBOOKS recommends several bridal books to help in the planning of weddings even without a coordinator. The books are guaranteed to provide dozens of ideas and inspire those who would rather plan their big day themselves.

"The Essential Wedding Workbook for the Filipina" by Rita M. Neri, one of the country's premier wedding resource persons, is a must-have for every Filipina bride.

"Bride's Guide (A Wedding Planner for the Filipina Bride)" is packed with plenty of useful tips and information and has space for jotting down ideas.

"Bridal Directory" lists the best in the business and everything that might be needed for a wedding.

"The Knot's Complete Guide to Weddings in the Real World" is an international guide to planning weddings, from gowns to etiquette and to food.

"Veil: The Secret Behind the Perfect Wedding" answers questions about the "perfect wedding" with lots of tips and suggestions from experts in the industry.

A feature of Powerbooks' Bridal Festival this May is a special bridal furniture display by Trousseau at the store's Arnaiz branch until May 29. Design ideas come from the newest interior design books.

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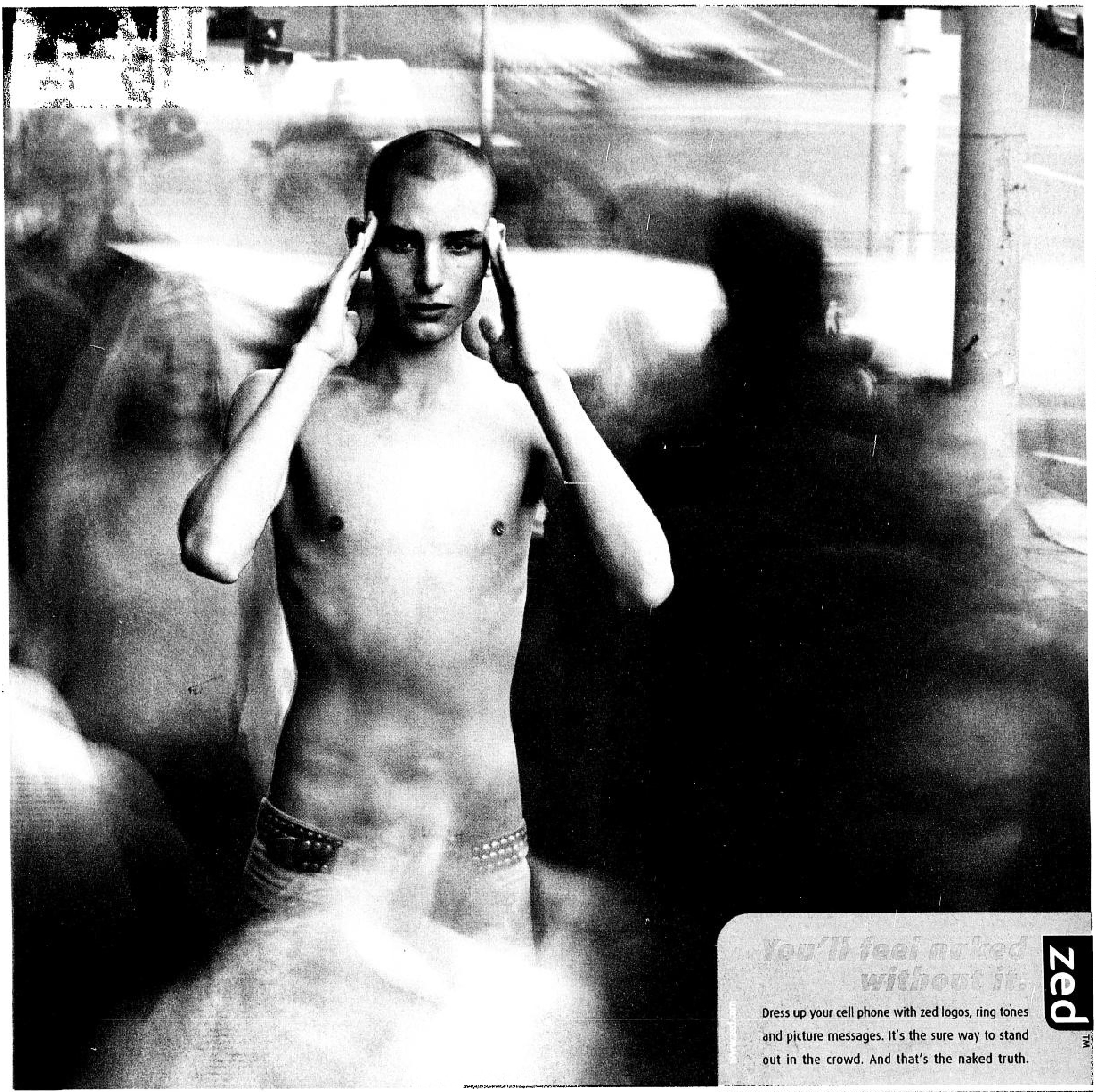

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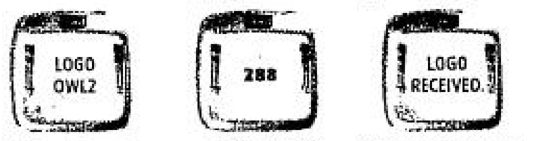
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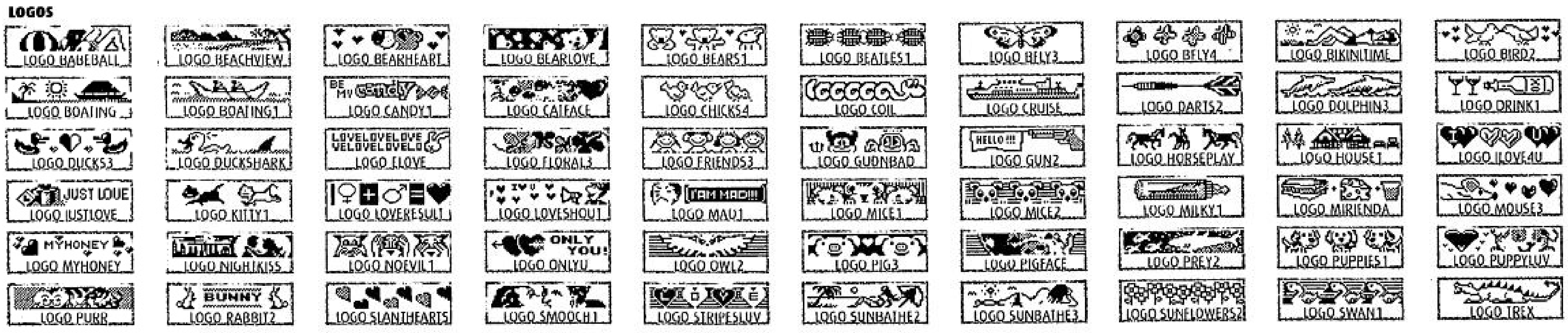
**LOGOS**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LOGO BFLY4
LOGO BIKINITIME
LOGO BIRD2
LOGO BOATING
LOGO BOATING1
LOGO CANDY1
LOGO CATFACE
LOGO CHICKS4
LOGO COIL
LOGO CRUISE
LOGO DARTS2
LOGO DOLPHIN3
LOGO DRINK1
LOGO DUCKS3
LOGO DUCKSHARK
LOGO ELOVE
LOGO FLORAL3
LOGO FRIENDS3
LOGO GUDNBAD
LOGO GUN2
LOGO HORSEPLAY
LOGO HOUSE1
LOGO ILOVE4U
LOGO JUSTLOVE
LOGO KITTY1
LOGO LOVERESULT
LOGO LOVESHOUT
LOGO MAD1
LOGO MICE1
LOGO MICE2
LOGO MILKY1
LOGO MIRIENDA
LOGO MOUSE3
LOGO MYHONEY
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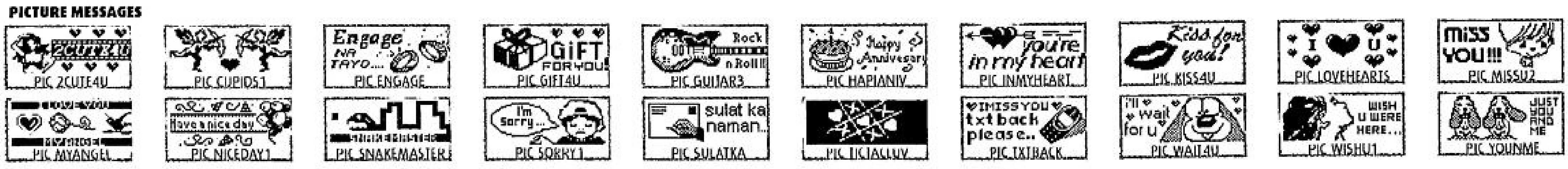
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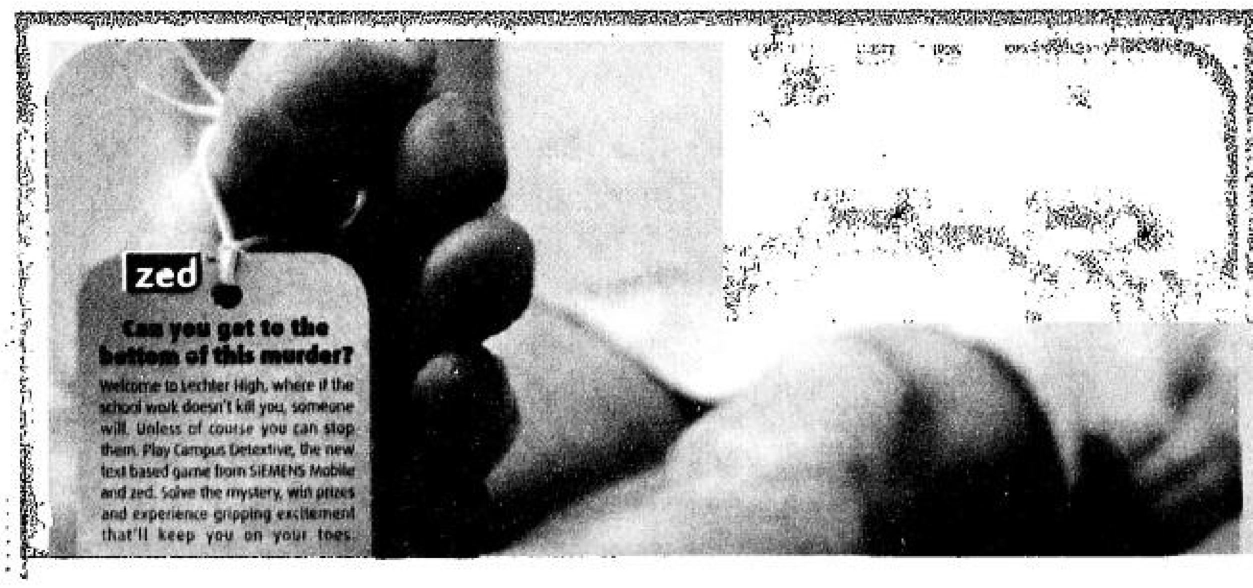

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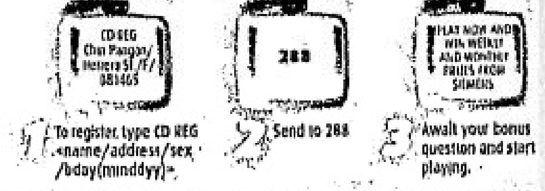
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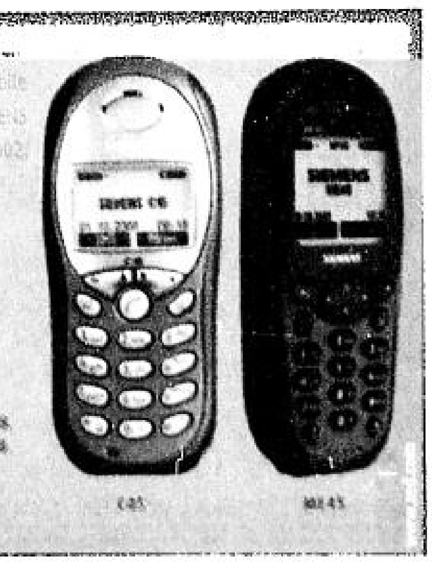

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  - profiling the client base
  - establishing a customer -intimate relationship with clients
  - effectively managing resources, e.g. time, equipment, collaterals, etc.
- IT Knowledge: has a working knowledge of the Internet

**Experience Base**

- Minimum of one (1) year Sales experience
- Has a network of potential clients and/or competitors

If you're interested, please email your resume to: **careers@100.ph** with the subject "Web Sales-AE".

Or send it to **Web Sales, Inc.** c/o EYP.ph Corporation
8F DPC Place 2322 Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo Extension)
1231 Makati City, Philippines

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SENTRO 1771

The Chateau 1771 Group of Restaurants is looking for some very special people for its new branch, **Sentro 1771**, in Greenbelt 3, Makati. The guests who come to eat at Chateau often linger and stay on as friends. We want only the best for our friends.

We are looking for a maturity that expresses itself in:

- Resiliency
- Emotional Stability
- Fortitude
- Independence

For our **kitchen staff**, we want people who have a passion for life and a love affair with food. We will support and affirm creative people who have a zest for learning and a knack of expressing themselves with food. Our kitchen requires excellence. Excellence demands an attention to detail.

We are hiring:

☑ **Sous chefs**
☑ **Cooks**
☑ **Kitchen helpers**

For the **dining room**, we need people with warmth and interest in others. Our crew's quiet, attentive service is much sought-after by our guests.
We are hiring:

☑ **Servers** ☑ **Cashiers** ☑ **Receptionists**

Line functions need support in **Human Resources** and **Accounting**. Computer literacy is essential. For accounting, knowledge of retail sales audit will be a plus.
We are hiring:

Support Staff in
☑ **Accounting**
☑ **Human Resources**

There will be extensive training in all aspects of our operations. With three branches in three different parts of the city, there will be much room for variety of experience and professional growth within our organization.

## Interested?

Send your resume, 2x2 photo, transcript of records, certificates of employment or clearance from previous employers up to **June 30, 2002** to:

**HRD DEPARTMENT**
**1771 M. Adriatico Street**
**Malate, Manila**

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For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE
**897-8808**
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**899-4425**
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**897-8425**
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CUBAO
**912-9008**
**to 11**
(Aurora)

MAKATI
**892-5578**
**811-4361**
**811-4370**

KALAW
**528-0213**
**527-3342**

MEGAMALL
**635-0219**
**635-0220**

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The **WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT-PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT**
a project of the Government of the Philippines with funding support from the European Union (EU)

is currently in need of a
SUITABLY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED

## ONE SENIOR OPERATIONS RESEARCH CONSULTANT AND TWO JUNIOR OPERATIONS RESEARCH CONSULTANTS

**for its Operations Research Unit**

Over its five years of operation the Project has gained considerable experience in community health development methodologies, as well as the needs of women in the community. Much quantitative and qualitative data and information has been generated at various levels within the Project, however it has yet to be comprehensively aggregated and analyzed. Similarly, the Project wishes to conduct research on the models it has developed and on the impact of its work with community women and their barangays.

The Project is seeking to recruit one (1) highly qualified and experienced Senior Operations Research Consultant and two (2) Junior Operations Research Consultants, to staff it's Operations Research Unit, which will focus on the conduct of required data management and research and evaluation activities.

### Qualifications - Senior Operations Research Consultant/Unit Head

1. Extensive experience in the conduct and management of operations research, particularly in the areas of community health development and health service delivery;
2. Extensive and demonstrated experience in research design and in data collection, management and analysis utilizing quantitative and qualitative methodologies/techniques;
3. Relevant academic qualifications and post graduate research experience, preferably at a post doctoral level;
4. Experience in the analysis of community health development techniques and processes and developing health systems;
5. Familiarity with both process-driven and rural development projects operating with specific timeframes and targets.

### Qualifications - Junior Operations Research Consultants

1. Experience in the conduct of operations research, particularly with a social development focus;
2. Experience in research design and in data collection, management and analysis utilizing quantitative and qualitative methodologies/techniques;
3. Relevant academic qualifications and post graduate research experience;
4. Familiarity and experience with computer applications for quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

All consultants will be based in the Project Management Unit in Manila but will be required to undertake considerable travel and field work in the five Project regions (CAR, Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Northern Mindanao, CARAGA). All consultants will have an initial engagement of four months with possibility of fifteen and a half months extension.

**DETAILED TORs ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST - ONLY CONSULTANTS WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY.**

Interested and appropriately qualified Consultants should submit their letter of response and a comprehensive resumé on or before **May 24, 2002** to:

WHSMP-PC

**THE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER**
**Women's Health Project - Partnerships Component**
**5B Osmeña Bldg., 1991 Mabini St.**
**Malate, Manila**
**Fax: (632) 536-6406 E-mail: whsm-pc@pacific.net.ph**

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SM

invites professionals to work as

## ACCOUNTING MANAGER/ SUPERVISORS

Successful candidates will be responsible in the effective implementation and review of the existing accounting procedure of the assigned area.

- Not over 32 years old
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- With at least three (3) years work experience in all accounting operations
- Proficient in computer software applications

## SYSTEMS ANALYST/ PROGRAMMER

Successful candidates will be tasked to implement new systems; evaluate operational systems and recommend changes if necessary; assist users in determining information technology needs, perform coding, systems testing and debugging as required.

- Not over 30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- With at least two (2) years related IT work experience
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- With working knowledge in Foxpro, RPG/400, Visual Basic, ASP
- Preferably with background in networking

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM or send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

**The Recruitment Division Manager**
400 Carlos Palanca Street, Quiapo, Manila

*(Please bring 3 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background and photocopy of your Transcript of Records and College Diploma together with the original copy).*

E-mail: **Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com**

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
**JOBMarket**
**ONLINE**

**VISIT US AT**
**www.jobmarketonline.com**

**HERSHEY'S**

Our company is in need of

## Accounting Supervisor

- BS Commerce, Major in Accountancy. Must be CPA.
- Graduate of U.P., La Salle and Ateneo, preferred.
- 5 years experience in General Accounting and Finance, preferably from a multinational FMCG.
- Could be a Senior Accountant or Accounting Supervisor.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Applications and mid-range ERP.
- Female, 28-35 years old.

**Our company offers a very attractive compensation and benefits package and a promising career growth.**

All applicants must be willing to work in Alabang.

Interested candidates must submit an updated copy of their resumés/curriculum vitae ASAP to email address: *mdeguzman@hersheys.com.ph*

Previous applicants need not apply.

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**AMA Computer University**

**The First and Largest IT University in Asia offers the highest compensation package in the industry.**

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**DEANS / FACULTY MEMBERS**

- For Nursing School
  - Masters degree in Nursing
  - At least 3 years academic teaching experience or 3 years experience as Clinical Instructor
- For Medical School
  - Doctor of Medicine with 3 years teaching experience
  - A Fellow or Diplomate
- For Maritime School
  - BS Marine Transportation/ Marine Engineering. Graduate w/ masters units in any field
  - At least two years shipboard exp. as Chief Mate or Second Engineer Officer
  - Teaching experience preferred; willing to be assigned in any branch
- For Deans, experience as academic head necessary

**FACULTY, Maritime School**
(Recto, Marikina, Batangas, Pangasinan, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cebu & Davao)

- Holder of Operational Level Certificate (3rd or 4th Engineer Licensed)
- A year of relevant shipboard experience. Willing to be assigned in NCR, LUZVIMIN.

**LICENSED LIBRARIANS, NURSES, PHYSICIANS, & DENTISTS**
(Recto, Marikina, Batangas, Cebu, Pangasinan, Iloilo, Bacolod, Davao)

- Willing to be assigned in any branch as mentioned above

### NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT- AUDIT**

- CPA, 5-7 years audit experience in managerial level

**SALES AND MARKETING DIRECTORS**
(For NCR, Calamba, Angeles, Batangas,Dagupan,Pangasinan,Tuguegarao, La Union, Tacloban, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Davao & Zamboanga)

- Must have 3-5 years marketing/sales experience preferably in a managerial capacity.
- MA/MBA graduates from reputable schools here and abroad.
- With excellent communication skills.

**QUALITY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR**

- Industrial Engineering graduate . MBA holder with 6 years relevent work experience, 3 years of which in a managerial level.
- Experience in ISO 9000 2000 Implementation an advantage.

**CHIEF MARKETING OFFICERS**

- 5 yrs. Marketing/Sales experience in managerial capacity.
- Willing to travel to NCR / Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

**HRD SUPERVISORS / ASSISTANTS**

- Graduate of Psychology or Human Resources Management / Behavioral Science
- At least 2 years work experience in a supervisory capacity

**AUDIT MANAGER / SYSTEMS MANAGER / INTERNAL AUDITORS / AUDITORS / ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR ACCOUNTANTS and ASSISTANTS - ( LUZON, VISAYAS & MINDANAO )**
(Quezon City, NCR, Cabanatuan, Tarlac and other provincial branches)

- Accounting graduate, CPA, with 2-3 years relevant experience

**SYSTEM AUDITORS/ANALYSTS -(NCR , LUZON , VISAYAS,MINDANAO)**

- BS Com. Sci./ BS Accounting, CPA. With 1-2 years exp.in programming, coding, testing, debugging, hardware, networking , computer auditing. Good in oral and written communication.

**MARKETING / ADMISSION OFFICERS - (NCR - LUZON,VISAYAS, MINDANAO)**
(Quezon City, Fairview, Dagupan, Lucena, Tuguegarao, La Union, Cebu, Davao, Zamboanga)

- Graduate of Management, Marketing, or any related course.
- With 2 years marketing/sales or relevant experience.

**HARDWARE DESIGN ENGINEERS / TECHNICIANS**

- BS COE / ECE graduate. Preferably Licensed. 2-3 years experience in PCB making such as: PROTEL, SMART ART WORK OR CAD PCB& AUTOCAD. Knowledgeable in Silk Screening.

Send applications to:
Corporate Human Resources
AMA Group of Companies
AMA Building II, Panay Avenue, Quezon City
Tel Nos 3733901 Telefax 3711661

For more information, visit: **http://hrd.amaes.edu.ph/hronline**

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## WANTED IMMEDIATELY

**A PROGRESSIVE AND LEADING TRANSPORT COMPANY**

is in need of

### HEAD - MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

- Male or Female, 27-35 years old
- Degree holder preferably Computer Science, Industrial Engineering, Math or Business with an IT background.
- with at least 3 years in Supervisory/Managerial position.
- Innovative, strongly analytical and detail-oriented, with good business sense.
- Mature, flexible and highly term-oriented.

### OPERATIONS OFFICER

- Male, 27-35 years old
- Preferably graduate of any Engineering course.
- with at least 5 years extensive experience in operations
- Possesses strong management acumen to strategically improve overall operations.
- Aggressive, analytical and system oriented with excellent leadership qualities.

### SUPERVISORY TRAINEES

- Male or Female, 22-25 years old
- College degree holder
- Preferably with at least 2 years experience in operations.
- Highly flexible, adaptable and with strong leadership skills
- Self motivated and enthusiastic to undergo comprehensive company training

Interested applicants are required to send their comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 ID photo to:

**Code: QC-2002-50**
**c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer**
**G/F St. Anthony's Bldg.**
**891 Aurora Blvd. cor. Oxford St.**
**Cubao, Quezon City**

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## NISSAN NORTH EDSA

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**Gives you the chance to:**

- ⇨ Be a part of the country's most complete Nissan Dealer.
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- ⇨ High commission package.

**We need the ff: for immediate placement:**

### FLEET OFFICERS/SALES PROFESSIONALS

**Qualifications:**

- ☑ Male or Female with above average intelligence.
- ☑ With pleasing personality, 20 to 32 years old
- ☑ Good interpersonal and communication skills.
- ☑ With network communication.
- ☑ Knowledge of chinese language is an advantage.
- ☑ Driving skills an advantage.

### INSURANCE COORDINATOR

- ☑ Preferably college graduate / Female
- ☑ With pleasing personality
- ☑ With experience in Auto Insurance
- ☑ Proficient in both oral & written communication skills.

**Apply in person with your resumé @**
**1174 EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City**
**Tel. Nos. 330-5331 to 50 loc. 216**

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**US A-E firm is in need of:**

## SENIOR SOILS/ MATERIALS EXPERT

Must be a registered civil engineer. A higher post-graduate qualification in soil mechanics or geotechnical work should be an advantage.

He must have at least 15 years experience especially in a developing country involved in internationally financed projects for roads and highways (IBRD, ADB, JICA, etc.) - field investigation for material sources, geotechnical investigations, earthwork design, managing materials and quality control of site work.

Computer literate.

Fluent in written and spoken English.

Submit detailed resumé to:

**LYON ASSOCIATES, INC.**
9th Floor, Ramon Magsaysay Center
1680 Roxas Blvd., Manila
or
laipl@mozcom.com

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**COME AND JOIN US!!!**

As we elevate your career to the top!
We have vacancies for:

## ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

The candidate shall be responsible for the direct supervision and control over the administrative functions of the company. He is expected to systematize administrative work and procedures. He must have extensive experience in the areas of general services, warehouse and inventory control, grounds and building maintenance, security and safety, and purchasing.

The ideal applicant must be a graduate of any course in business or engineering, preferably with MBA units. He must have at least three (3) years supervisory experience in a medium-to-large scale business entity. He must have hands-on capability in M.S. Office and holder of a driver's license.

## ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

The candidate shall assist the Senior Manager for Administration and Finance in the supervision and control over the accounting requirements of the company. He/she is expected to systematize accounting functions and procedures. He/she must have extensive experience in the areas of payroll and payable, credit and collection, cost accounting, general accounting and financial accounting in a computerized environment.

The ideal applicant must be 30 to 40 years old, a graduate of B.S. Accountancy, and a Certified Public Accountant. He/she must have at least three (3) years experience in a similar capacity from a medium-to-large scale business entity. He/she must have hands-on capability in M.S. Office.

## MARKETING EXECUTIVE

The successful candidate shall be responsible in product management, advertising and promotions, public relations for media exposure, research on the present market size and segmentation, monitoring of competitors' activities, market dynamics, customer needs and product positioning.

The candidate must be between 22 to 28 years old and a graduate of any business or engineering related course from a reputable school. Computer literate and has strong leadership ability. The ideal applicant must be analytical, determined, creative and with good oral and written communication skills. She/He must have experience as a marketing personnel in an appliance manufacturer or entity related to product promotion of white and brown lines.

Qualified candidate for the above positions can expect a competitive compensation package. Interested parties should apply with credentials and photo personally or by mail post-marked not later than May 30, 2002 to:

**International Elevator & Equipment, Inc.**
Km. 21.5 West Service Road, South Super Highway, Cupang, Muntinlupa City
(Between Sucat and Alabang Interchanges, near Alabang Hills Village)
Tel. No. 842-3161 to 64
Fax No. 842-3160 / 8093706

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The **Peace and Equity Foundation** is a non-stock, non-profit organization committed to the vision of a poverty-free society. It is a funding mechanism that seeks to support civil society in its work towards eradicating poverty and marginalization.

The Foundation would like to extend an invitation to Organizations or Individuals who are willing to commit themselves and actively participate in the pursuit of the Foundation's vision to join and serve as our

- ☑ **MICROFINANCE AND/OR MICROENTERPRISE CONSULTANTS**
- ☑ **ANTI-POVERTY CONSULTANTS**

**The Task**

Provide technical assistance to People's Organizations and Non-government Organizations particularly in developing and managing microenterprise and microfinance and/or anti-poverty programs on a per project basis.

**The Requirements**

We are only interested in working with organizations and/or individuals that have all of the following criteria:

1) a strong commitment to work for the poor
2) have at least three (3) years track record in successfully providing assistance for microfinance and microenterprise and/or anti-poverty projects of People's Organizations and Non-government Organizations

Region-based business groups and individuals from Bicol, Region 12, ARMM and Region 8 are encouraged to apply.

Please send your resumé or capability-profile that contains information about your expertise, background and experience not later than May 30, 2002 to:

THE PRESIDENT
**Peace and Equity Foundation**
Rm. 216, Institute of Social Order
Ateneo de Manila University Complex
Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Telefax No. 4266001 local 4813

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**FEP PRINTING CORPORATION**

**Official Printer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Libre, Asian Wall Street Journal, Cebu Daily News, Bandera, Tumbok**

### FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

## QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER

**Minimum Qualifications**

- ➢ Knowledgeable in Quality Control
- ➢ Experience in web offset or commercial printing an advantage
- ➢ With managerial experience

**Immediate Tasks**

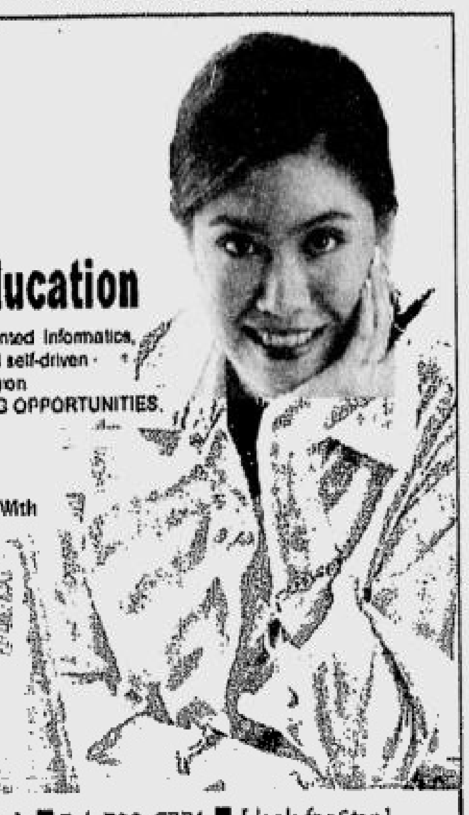
- ☑ Set up Quality Control Department
- ☑ Set up procedures and guidelines for implementation
- ☑ Establish a management review process
- ☑ Establish training needs
- ☑ Select personnel to work in the department

Send resumé with recent 2x2 picture to:

HRD (Code: QC)
**FEP Printing Corporation**
Louie R. Prieto Press Building
Mascardo Street near corner Pasong Tamo
Makati City

Or email to: **znavarro@fep.ph**

# INFORMATICS COMPUTER INSTITUTE
GREENHILLS



## Join the Global Leader in IT Training and Education

We are an I T company composed of "young I.t. professionals" who are success-driven and result oriented. Informatics, the WORLD'S LARGEST NETWORK OF COMPUTER TRAINING INSTITUTE, invites aggressive and self-driven individuals to be part of its training and education centers in the Philippines and in the Asia Pacific region. COMPETITIVE BENIFITS PACKAGE, PROGRESSIVE SALARY INCREASE, EXTENSIVE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, FAST PROMOTION and POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENT await succesful candidates.

**IT TRAINING SPECIALIST**

* 20-30 years old / B.S.Comp. Sci., Comp.Eng. graduate or any comp. related course. / With good communication skills / Knowledge in I.T. applications or any I.T. specialized field.

**SALES/MARKETING OFFICERS**

* Female / 20-30 years old / College graduate with good communication skills / With experience in sales or marketing / Willing to be trained in I.T.

**SERVICE OFFICER**

* Female / 20-30 years old / College graduate with good communication skills / willing to be trained in I.T.

⇨ *Interested parties must hand carry their resumes to:*
**INFORMATICS Computer Institute - GREENHILLS Center**
3/f MetroBank bldg., Ortigas Ave., corner Wilson St., [ right in front of Unimart ] ■ Tel. 722-6774 ■ [ look for Star ]

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# abc store
incorporated

ABC Store Incorporated is in need of the following:

## STORE MANAGERS

- Male or female with background in Business Management
- Preferably has work experience in cellphone retailing business
- Has knowledge on sales report preparation
- Computer literate
- Has a very good selling strategy, and good analysis for the store's business improvement and development
- Has a very strong leadership skills to motivate people
- With integrity, work standards, critical analyses, stress tolerance, great ideas and initiative

## SALES ASSOCIATES

- Male or female between 18-25 years old
- With excellent communication skills
- Preferably has work experience in cellphone retailing business
- Has a very good selling strategy
- Has a positive outlook towards everyday sales movement
- Can establish set of contacts of clients
- With integrity, work standards, critical analyses, stress tolerance, great ideas and initiative

## BRANCH CASHIER

- Male or female between 18-25 years old
- Preferably with previous experience as cashier
- Has knowledge in balancing sales for the day to day
- Computer literate
- With integrity, work standards, critical analyses, stress tolerance, great ideas and initiative

## INVENTORY CUSTODIAN

- Male or female between 18-30 years old
- Has a very keen analysis for details
- Familiar with low-end to high-end cellphones and cellphone accessories
- Preferably with background in Auditing or work experience as Inventory Clerk in retailing business
- Computer literate
- With integrity, work standards, critical analyses, stress tolerance, great ideas and initiative

## CELLULAR PHONE TECHNICIANS

- Male between 18-30 years old
- Familiar with repairs/problems of low-end to high-end cellphones, cellphone accessories, and cellphone motherboards
- Preferably with work background in cellular phone business
- Computer literate
- With integrity, work standards, critical analyses, stress tolerance, great ideas and initiative

If you find these qualifications suited to you, kindly submit your resumé at 622 JTIC Building, Samat Street corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City (in front of Equitable PCIB - Shaw) or contact 532-4367 local 108, 111 look for **Apple Quevedo HR Department**

---

**A prestigious Gourmet Food and Wine Company is looking for the right individual to fill the position of:**

# ACCOUNT MANAGER

- Male or Female, 24 years old and above with dynamic character, aggressive with strong interpersonal skills
- College graduate
- Self-motivated and goal oriented
- 1 to 3 years experience in Direct, Wholesale and Retail Selling
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Must be highly interested to be trained in the study of Wine and Gourmet Food
- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel)

Qualified applicant will receive salary commensurate to credentials and UNLIMITED COMMISSION (based on targets). Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumés and I.D. picture to:

**Unit C - 2 Karrivin Plaza**
**2316 Pasong Tamo Extension**
**Makati City, Philippines 1231**

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# DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

**The Philippines-Canada Cooperation Office (PCCO) is currently updating its Database of Registered Consultants. PCCO is the program support unit of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).**

All experienced Consultants who are interested to provide expert services to the CIDA Philippines Program are invited to apply for registration.

This advisory is directed to consultants in all development sectors (including those that have previously provided services to CIDA), with the following specializations being of particular current interest:

- Organizational Capacity Assessment (preferably with ICT experience)
- Organizational Development (OD)
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
- Information System Development
- Microenterprise and Small Business Development
- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Financing
- Survey-Based Poverty Study/Assessment
- Judicial Reform (Development Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Court Administration)
- Small (community-based) Water projects
- Health (preferably Public Health, with background on Primary Health, Infectious Disease and Control)
- Gender (preferably with ICT experience)
- Project Management (Development Projects)
- Results-Based Management (RBM)

Interested applicants should submit their detailed CVs by E-MAIL to pcco.log@cidamnl.com.ph on or before **Friday, 31 May 2002**. CVs should be in Microsoft Word format, and should specify consultant's field(s) of specialization.

*Applicants who have already submitted their CVs to this e-mail address need not resubmit, unless a more updated CV is available.*

Please indicate your current professional fee rate in your application. This information would be treated with the highest level of confidentiality.

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# Southville International School

Southville International School

*Internationally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges(WASC), USA*

***Take the challenge of joining a dynamic educational institution as it strives to assume leadership in the academe.***

For schoolyear 2002-2003, we are actively seeking for faculty and staff who are committed to develop learners to become **MOVERS OF SOCIETY.**

**CALCULUS/STATISTICS TEACHER**

- College graduate preferably with education units and/or teaching experience
- Preferably with specialization in Mathematics (Calculus/Statistics)
- Must not be more than 40 years old

**SCHOOL LIBRARIAN**

- Graduate of BS Library Science
- Preferably with at least one year experience in a school setting and/or MA degree in Library Science and with license

**PSYCHOMETRICIAN**

- BS Psychology graduate
- Computer literate and with good communication skills

**COMPUTER TECHNICIAN**

**GS AND HS TEACHERS**

- College graduate preferably with education units
- Specialization in any of the following subjects is a must: Social Studies, World History, **MANDARIN/CHINESE,** Physical Education, English, ESL, Reading, Math, Science, Filipino, Computer Education, Physical Education, Art, Music, Values Education,
- Preferably with graduate studies in education
- Must not be more than 40 years old

**MARKETING EXECUTIVE**

- Graduate of BS Mass Communication or any business course
- With excellent communication skills, pleasing personality and computer literate
- Can work with minimum supervision, goal oriented
- Must be between 24 to 35 years old
- Willing to be deployed in Southville Foreign Colleges

**SCHOOL NURSE**

S.I.S. offers a good compensation and benefits package.
We guarantee your continued professional and personal growth.

Qualified applicants are requested to bring their resume', transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo and come for testing with the required credentials on May 20, 2002. The test will start promptly at 1:00 PM.
Human Resource Office, Southville International School
1281 Tropical Avenue corner Luxembourg Street, BF International, Las Piñas City
Tel. No. 820-8702/03 or 825-6374 local 106

---

A new and dynamic telecoms distributor is in need of a

# MANAGER

- Male/female, not more than 32 years old, can drive
- Very aggressive, self-motivated, trustworthy
- Good sales, leadership, and inter-personal skills
- Accounting, marketing or engineering background
- Can work in pressure and achieve goals

The position will oversee Manila/Cavite operation and expansion to the Southern Luzon including the CALABARZON.

**PARTYPHONE** is a new telecom provider of unlimited cellular calls for intra-network, regionalized area and nationwide coverage.

Interested applicants can appy thru, bring resumé with picture
Email at bgroup@info.com.ph

Scheduled interview, call 242-9738, 242-9749 look for Bennett

Manila interview: **501, 5/F Enterprise Building**
**524 Q. Paredes Street, Binondo, Manila**

Cavite interview: **Tirona corner Aguinaldo Highway**
**Bacoor, Cavite across SM Bacoor**

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# SUGECO

**SUGECO Since 1940**
SUPERIOR GAS & EQUIPMENT CO., INC.
URGENTLY NEEDS:

## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- ✓ Single, College graduate
- ✓ With at least 3-5 years related work experience
- ✓ With pleasing personality and excellent communication skills
- ✓ Possesses self initiative and leadership qualities and can relate well with all levels
- ✓ Can work with minimum supervision

## MARKETING SUPERVISOR

- ✓ College graduate in related course
- ✓ With excellent communication skills
- ✓ 3-5 years experience preferably in gases industry
- ✓ Hardworking, dynamic, innovative
- ✓ Computer literate

If you have the qualities and experience to meet our challenging opportunities, please submit personally your detailed resumé with 2x2 photo to the address below.

**Human Resources Department**
Sugeco #33 P. Martinez St., Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 531-8021 to 26
Contact Person: Raquel Morales

*Interview schedule: Monday - Friday: 8:30 - 11:00 AM / 1:30 - 3:00 PM*

---

**TASCO, INC.** an importer and distributor of imported tires and lubricants is in need of young, aspiring and determined

# SALES OFFICER

(preferably Male) to form part of our sales team.

Our objective is to market a high quality imported Motor Oil. And because of this, you'll have opportunity to advance financially as well as professionally.

We offer an attractive incentive package (i.e. allowance, commissions).

So if you are anywhere between the ages 21-30 years, college graduate willing to pursue a career in the Automotive Lubricant industry.

Come and see us at:

No. 70, 20th Avenue, Murphy,
Cubao, Quezon City
E-mail: **mbc_tasco@philwebinc.com**

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# A YOUNG AND DYNAMIC COMPANY

**Engaged in cosmetic equipment sales is looking for:**

## ONE (1) MARKETING MANAGER

**Qualifications:**

- Above thirty (30) years old
- With marketing and sales experience
- Reliable and dependable
- College graduate of a reputable school

**Please send resumé at**

Unit 717 City and Land Megaplaza
ADB Avenue corner Garnet Road
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Telefax: 687-2695
Telephone: 688-8422 (Contact: Anna)

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A WELL ESTABLISHED FIRST CLASS RETAIL COMPANY IS IN NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY AS

# INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDITOR

**Code: R - ISA**

- At least 28 years of age, male or female
- Graduate of a four (4)-year degree course
- With at least two (2) years actual work exposure in Information Systems or IS Audit
- With external or internal audit job experience
- Analytical and must have good communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, positive work attitude, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Highly motivated and results-oriented
- Must be hardworking

Please send your application documents with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo to:

**BOX 100**
**c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer**
**Classified Ads Division**
**5th Floor, Building B, Megamall**
**Mandaluyong City**

**(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)**
**PLEASE USE POSITION CODE**

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# URGENT HIRING

## SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT & SECURITY OFFICER

At least 2 years of related experience in the field of Health, Safety & Environment in an Industrial setting

Preferably with DOLE Safety Practitioner and/or DENR PCO Accreditation

Preferably licensed Mechanical Engineer, Electrical Engineer or Chemical Engineer

Willing to accept provincial assignment

*Please send application letter with detailed resumé, transcript of records, 2x2 photo no later than May 22, 2002.*

**Human Resource & Admin Department**
**P.O. Box No. 1746**
**Makati City**

## DPC
Directories Philippines Corporation
THE Directory Company

**Directories Philippines Corporation (DPC)** is the leading and biggest publisher of telephone directories in the Philippines. It is the official publisher of telephone directories for **PLDT, Piltel, Datelcom, PLDT-Maratel, Cruztelco, General Telephone System Inc., Philcom, Islacom, Bayantel and Sotelco** covering 26 directories. A Charter Member of the **Asian Directory Publishers Association, Inc. DPC** is the exclusive sales representative in the Philippines of the telephone directories of PCCW of **Hongkong**, Telekom Publications SDN BHD of **Malaysia**, PT Infomedia Nusantara of **Indonesia**, Directel Macau of **Macau**, GTE Directories (B) SDN BHD of **Brunei**, Directories Lanka (PVT) Ltd. of **Sri Lanka**, M & N Publications Ltd. of **India**, Pacific Access Pty Ltd. of **Australia**, BCE ActiMedia – M-E & Africa of **Middle East**, Edward H. O'Brien (PNG) Ltd. of **Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands**, Fiji Directories Ltd of **FIJI**, Worldcorp Holdings (S) Pte Ltd. of **Vietnam**, NTT Directory Services Co. of **Japan**, China Telephone Co. of **Shanghai, China** and Korea Telephone Directory Co. Ltd. of **South Korea**.

**DPC** immediately needs quality candidates for the following position:

### ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE / ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE-TELEMARKETING

- Male / Female 21-28 years old
- College graduate in top 25% of his / her graduating class;
- Personable, self-driven, dynamic and aggressive
- Persuasive in oral and written communication
- No previous selling experience required

DPC pays above average compensation. In addition to basic salary, DPC provides allowances, commissions, incentives, foreign trips and other fringe benefits no other company in the industry can match.

If you fit the above description, see us for an interview, May 13 - 24, 2002, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM with your application letter, resume, transcript of records and recent photograph.

DPC
yellow pages
The Yellow Pages

**DIRECTORIES PHILIPPINES CORPORATION**
Corporate Affairs Department
16/F DPC Place,
2322 Chino Roces Ave.,
(Formerly Pasong Tamo Ext.,)
Makati City
www.directoriesphil.com
www.yellowpagesphil.com
dpc@info.com.ph

yellow pages

Charter Member: ADPAI ASIAN DIRECTORY PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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AJA

**Are you looking for a stable, prestigious and reputable company where you would like to stay for the rest of your working years?
Join us if you are qualified for the following:**

### MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AUDITOR

- Must be knowledgeable in QS-9000 or TS16949
- Must have at least 3 years experience in automotive industry
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Preferably with auditing experience
- Honest, sincere, committed, dedicated
- With a strong will and self-drive to succeed
- With pleasing personality and positive attitude

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING OFFICER

- With marketing experience or graduate of related course
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Preferably with knowledge in ISO 9001 and/or ISO 14001
- Honest, sincere, committed, dedicated, self-motivated
- With a strong will and self-drive to succeed
- With pleasing personality and positive attitude

Send your resumé to the Administration Officer on May 20-25, 2002. This is an urgent requirement, applications received after the mentioned dates will no longer be processed.

**AJA Registrars, Inc.**
Unit 7E Mapfre Asian Corporate Center,
Acacia Avenue, Madrigal Business Park,
Ayala-Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. Nos. 850-2040, 850-2204, 850-2208, 850-2288

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## McCONNELL DOWELL

We are a Multinational construction company and presently in need of applicant's that will fit the following positions:

| Position | Yrs. of Experience |
|---|---|
| Procurement Manager | 5 years |
| Procurement Officer | 3 years |
| Administration Manager | 5 years |
| Logistics Officer | 3 years |
| Contracts Engineers | 5 years |
| Quantity Surveyor | 5 years |
| Civil Engineers (Licensed) | 5 years |
| Mech. Engineers (Licensed) | 5 years |
| Planning Engineers | 5 years |
| Safety Managers | 5 years |
| Safety Officers | 3 years |
| Accountants | 5 years |
| Supervisors (all disciplines) | 5 years |
| QA/QC Manager | 5 years |
| Surveyors (Civil or Geodetic) | 5 years |

All interested applicants can send their CV's complete with previous detailed Job Descriptions by mail to:

**The Admin Manager**
McConnell Dowell Philippines Inc.
Richville Corporate Centre
1314 Commerce Avenue Extension Madrigal Business Park
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

Note: **Pasay, Parañaque applicants are highly prioritized.
Walk-in Applicants will not be entertained.**

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**ONE OF THE LARGEST SPARE PARTS COMPANIES IN THE COUNTRY HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR AGGRESSIVE, GOD-FEARING CHRISTIANS WHO POSSESS MANAGERIAL SKILLS, TO FILL IN THE POSITION OF:**

### GENERAL MANAGER

☑ Reports to the Board of Directors
☑ Oversee all aspects of company operation
☑ Insure proper implementation of company's programs and policies
☑ Plan and recommend to the Board programs and policies aimed at improving company operations

### PARTS MANAGER

☑ Set up an effective stock ordering and balancing system
☑ Organize product and market research
☑ Set up competitive pricing system
☑ Develop an aggressive marketing network and plan
☑ Supervise sales and purchasing personnel

### SPARE PARTS SALESMEN

☑ Reporting to the Parts Manager, handle sales of automotive spare parts
☑ Promote products of the company
☑ Initiate and develop business relationship with prospects
☑ Conduct credit checks and make recommendations for credit lines

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- College graduate with above-average scholastic records
- Male, with pleasing personality, good PR, willing to travel
- Computer literate
- Experience and knowledge of automotive spare parts definitely an advantage
- Applicants for General Manager must be loyal, honest, and with initiative to perform without supervision
- Preferably Chinese-speaking

HIGH STARTING SALARY, COMMISSION, OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL ABROAD, CAR PLAN AND OTHER BENEFITS AWAIT THE RIGHT PARTIES.

PLEASE SEND YOUR APPLICATION LETTER WITH RESUMÉ AND LATEST ID SIZE PICTURE TO:

**The Personnel Manager
2468 Dominga Street, Pasay City
Metro Manila**

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### SENIOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR

An NGO with international funding is in need of a Senior Program Coordinator with a science, health or business related degree with at least 10 years working experience, at least 3 years of which is supervisory and/or management and/or consulting experience preferably from the food industry. Experience on food fortification will be a distinct advantage. Strong leadership, negotiating, advocacy, training and analytical skills. Results and team oriented with excellent communications and computer skills.

This is an urgent requirement. Initial contract will be for 15 months with possible extension. Please send application letter together with bio-data addressed to MOST Resident Advisor by fax to 525-9476 or e-mail to most@hki.com.ph (preferred). Closing date for application will be on **May 20, 2002**. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview.

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ACES, INC.

### MARKETING EXECUTIVE

○ Graduate of Marketing course or any Business related course
○ Male/female, 22-35 years old
○ Possesses excellent written & oral communication skills
○ Preferably can speak / write Mandarin / Cantonese
○ Minimum of 1 year work experience in MARKETING
○ Innovative in meeting customer requirements

RM. 301/302 EXECUTIVE BLDG. CENTRE,
GIL PUYAT AVE. COR. MAKATI AVE., MAKATI CITY
TEL.#8952850/8952802/8970927 FAX# 8996111

BRING REQUIREMENTS: SSS#, TIN#, NBI & BRGY. CLEARANCE; PICTURE (2x2)

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### CHIEF SYSTEMS ANALYST

We are looking for a dynamic, career-oriented individual with extensive experience in re-engineering of organizations. The successful applicant will be groomed to become the IT Head of a reputable Group of Companies with operations both domestic and international.

**Requirements:**

- With at least 5 years experience in IT related activities
- BS Computer Science graduate, with good academic records and excellent communication skills
- Can manage 3 or more projects simultaneously, and
- Not more than 40 years old

Interested parties may e-mail their resumé to May Gomez, HR Officer not later than **May 31, 2002.**

E-mail address: mcgomez@magsaysay.com.ph

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### TECHNICAL SUPPORT EXECUTIVE

Email your resume' with a passport size picture to:

Fatima Garcia
Office Administrator
**fatima.garcia@mnl.galileo.com**

All applications must be received not later than 31 May 2002

**Qualifications:**

- Degree in Electronic / Computer Engineering or Computer Science
- MCSE & CCNA holder is preferred
- At least 3 years work experience in the IT industry or related IT position
- Programming experience is well regarded
- PC hardware and operating systems expertise is mandatory
- Expertise with wide variety of PC applications
- Must be able to demonstrate analyses and problem solving ability

TM
GALILEO ASIA, LLC

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**An Established Network Marketing Co. (MLM) Invites suitably qualified and experienced individuals, to fill up the following key positions:**

### AUDIT STAFF

☑ Male/Female, 25-30 years old
☑ Accounting graduate
☑ Must have 2 to 3 years experience in auditing, liquidation of expenses/disbursements
☑ Must have good verbal communication skill and leadership ability
☑ Computer literate

### BOOKKEEPER

☑ Male/Female, 22 to 28 years old
☑ Accounting graduate, CPA is preferred
☑ Computer literate

### INVENTORY CLERK/ WAREHOUSE IN-CHARGE

☑ Male, at least 22 to 28 years old
☑ Accounting graduate
☑ With 1 to 2 years related experience
☑ Computer literate

### MARKETING ASSISTANT

☑ Male, 22 to 25 years old, at least 5'6" in height
☑ Graduate of Marketing or Mass Communications (newly graduates are welcome)
☑ Trainable and with good verbal communication skill

**The Sr. Marketing Manager**
Third Floor, EDMARK Building, No. 355 P. Tuazon Boulevard
Corner 21st Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. No.: 913-5515
E-mail: edmark@pacific.net.ph

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SUGECO

**SUGECO Since 1940**
**SUPERIOR GAS & EQUIPMENT CO., INC.**
URGENTLY NEEDS:

### PHARMACIST

- ✓ Licensed Pharmacist
- ✓ Female
- ✓ Not more than 30 years old
- ✓ Computer literate

### CREDIT & COLLECTION CLERK

- ✓ Male/Female
- ✓ 21 to 27 years old
- ✓ Accounting/Marketing graduate
- ✓ With at least 1 year experience in credit & collection
- ✓ Computer literate
- ✓ Willing to perform field works

Interested applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo & photocopy of transcript of records to:

**Human Resources Department**
Sugeco #33 P. Martinez St., Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 531-8021 to 26
Contact Person: Raquel Morales

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*MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS*

The Swiss section of Médecins Sans Frontieres, a non-profit, non-governmental international health organization, is implementing a project for street children in Manila, as one of its projects in the country. This project, which is being implemented on three pillars: street-based, community based and center-based, is in need of the following:

**Function:** **(2) Registered NURSES**
**(3) Registered SOCIAL WORKERS**

**Location:** **Manila**

**Qualifications:**

- Minimum experience in:
  - Implementation of street-based and/or community-based health strategies with particular focus on reproductive health & substance abuse
  - Working with children and adolescents
  - Working with expatriates
  - Case management and counseling
- Knowledge of participatory strategies
- Very good communication skills and interpersonal relation skills
- Hardworking and committed to the cause of protecting children's rights
- Could work with minimal supervision, a team player and with initiative

All application letters, comprehensive resumés with a recent 2x2 picture are to be mailed and addressed to:

**Mr. Thierry Arnoult**
Project Coordinator – Street Children Project
Médecins Sans Frontieres - Switzerland
1519 F. Benitez St., Paco, Manila, 1007
Email: msfch-sc@compass.com.ph

***Deadline for Submission: May 24, 2002.***

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**IF YOU BELIEVE THAT THE WEB IS ONLY USED FOR SWINGING FROM ONE BUILDING TO ANOTHER...**

### THEN WE DON'T NEED YOU!

*We are looking for Web Enthusiasts who are willing to make others understand what the Web is all about...
We are looking for Web Enthusiasts who can help build web solutions for companies and organization...
We are looking for people who are willing to Evangelize about their WEB...*

If you satisfy the following criteria:

- degree holder in Business, IT, or Communications
- possess excellent verbal and written communication skills
- considerable experience in executive selling, direct selling, telemarketing, or account management
- interested in software and hardware technology
- quick learner, achievement oriented, goal driven

then take up the challenge... send us your resumé through (e-mail) career@v-ecom.com, or (fax) 02-7248121, or deliver it by hand to Reception Lobby, Textron Bldg., 168 Luna Mencias St., San Juan, MM.

Successful applicants may be assigned as E-Business Consultants or Sales Support Specialists.

**Philippine Virtual E-Commerce Corporation**

***vision... value... velocity... V-eCOM***

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR RESPONSIBLE, HARDWORKING INDIVIDUALS WITH INITIATIVE TO JOIN US IN OUR EXPANSION PROGRAM.**

Applicants must be single, between 21-25 years old and must be college graduates

### 1. DESIGN ENGINEERS
- EE/ECE graduate

### 2. PERSONNEL CLERKS
- Graduate of BS Management, Psychology, Behavioral Science or any Business or English Communication courses

### 3. DATA ENCODERS
- Female
- BS Computer Science graduate

### 4. DOCUMENTATION PROCESSORS
- Graduate of Customs Administration or any business course

### 5. SALES CLERKS
- Business, Marketing or Electronics Graduate

### 6. LIBRARIAN
- Library Science Graduate

**Apply at 812 ELCANO STREET,**
**BINONDO MANILA**

Interested applicants who meet the criteria above may bring their resumé with pictures, NBI clearance, birth certificate, transcript of records and previous employment certificate, if available, between 8:00-9:00 AM, MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS

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## CITYSTATE SAVINGS BANK

*A publicly listed bank at the Philippine Stock Exchange*

*is in immediate need of*

## JEWELRY APPRAISERS

- at least high school graduate
- at least 21 years old
- with one year experience in the jewelry appraising

Attractive compensation up to PhP 15,000.00 a month and other benefits await the qualified applicants.

Applicants may send / handcarry their comprehensive resumé, recent 2x2 picture and transcript of records to:

**Human Resources Development Department**
2nd Floor Citystate Centre Building
709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Tel. No. 637-9843
Email add : hrd@citystatesavings.com
Website : http://www.citystatesavings.com

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## A thousand mile journey begins with one step.

**Are you a college student who aspires for a career in the emerging Contact Center Industry after graduation? Let the Center for Continuing Education (CCE), Ateneo de Manila's direct link to the world of business, steer you toward success. You can be trained in contact center operations as a part-time Telemarketing Staff and earn while you complete your college education if you are:**

- ☐ articulate in English
- ☐ blessed with a pleasant voice
- ☐ people-oriented
- ☐ computer-savvy and can type at least 25 wpm

**Or, are you a college graduate who seeks a promising career in marketing? Then you can join the ranks of CCE as a Marketing Assistant or as a Sales Coordinator if you possess:**

- ☐ a business-related degree, preferably Marketing
- ☐ a facility in oral and written English
- ☐ the flair to relate with people in various levels and the panache to handle pressure
- ☐ computer proficiency
- ☐ creativity and flexibility

**Please come to CCE with your résumé, latest scholastic records and recent photo.**

**3/F, Ateneo Professional Schools**
**130 HV Dela Costa, Makati City**
**tel: 8302050 ● fax: 8107809**
**e-mail: cce-abib@aps.ateneo.edu**

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
CENTER for CONTINUING EDUCATION

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## WANTED IMMEDIATELY
## **INVENTORY CLERK**
## **ACCOUNTING CLERK**

**Qualifications:**

- ○ female (single)
- ○ 21-25 years old
- ○ Commerce graduate (any major) for Inventory clerk & Accounting graduate for Accounting clerk
- ○ knowledge in computer an advantage
- ○ new graduates may apply

Send to: U.P. P.O. BOX 15,
DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY, 1101

- comprehensive resumé
- records of grades
- 2x2 or 1-1/2 x 1-1/2 ID picture

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**Asia's Largest Corporation!**

## New Job Openings!!!

*In cooperation of AVP's, Managers and company staff s*

## (18)JUNIOR MANAGERS
## (33) GROUP ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES(GAE)
## (23) MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

Male / Female, 20-45 years old, licensed or non-licensed

**16 GRADUATES OF:** PT,OT,RT,,Nursing & any MEDICAL courses

**35 GRADUATES OF:**IE,ECE,EE,ME.Archi,ComEng,ComSci,etc.

**23 GRADUATES OF:**Commerce,HRM,Tourism,Educ & BScourses

*Fresh Graduates are welcome to apply!!!*

**50 Ex-OFW from Taiwan, Saudi, Middle East, Japan, Hongkong, US, etc. recently arrived (Sept. 2001-April 2002) are welcome to apply.**

All interested applicants may apply personally with comprehensive resume, original credentials & 2x2 photo on May 20-June 7,2002at:

**Office of the Director**
Unit 3 G/F, 235-C Mercon Bldg., EDSA Ext. Pasay City
(walking distance from MRT/LRT EDSA Station going to Roxas Blvd, near Savers Square Dept Store, beside Allied Bank & Jianshe)

**Look for: Ms. Janice, GSM**

*Staple this ad to your resume!!!*

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## Comlan, Incorporated
TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM

COMLAN, INC. a leading importer, distributor and installer of high-tech telecommunication equipment are looking for young and talented individuals to join our workforce as:

### SALES / TELEMARKETERS

***Qualifications:***
Male/Female
20-25 years old
College graduate
Excellent communication skills
Basic computer knowledge
Hardworking
Fresh graduates and OJT's are welcome

### CONCESSIONAIRE'S SUPERVISOR

***Qualifications:***
Male/Female
College level or graduate
Experience is a must
Able to relate with other people
Willing to work under pressure

All qualified candidates are requested to submit their resume in person with recent photo, telephone number and other credentials to:

Comlan, Inc.
5F Enterprise Bldg.
524 Quintin Paredes St. Binondo Manila
Tel. Nos. 242-4806/07, 241-0963
E-mail: comlan@pacific.net.ph
**From Monday to Wednesday (9am to 12 pm and 2pm to 4pm only)**

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**A FOOD IMPORTER AND DISTRIBUTOR COMPANY**

IS IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF

## 5 SALES REPRESENTATIVES

**With The Following Minimum Requirements**

- Male/Female ; 23 – 30 years old
- Graduate of Food Technology an advantage
- Preferably with marketing and sales experience in the Food Industry
- With excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Filipino
- Computer literate
- Willing to travel and sell the company's products to groceries and supermarkets

**Personal Requirements:**

- Ambitious
- Career-oriented
- Hard-working
- Pleasing personality
- Aggressive
- Commission-driven
- Highly-motivated
- Honest and with good moral character

Interested parties may send their COMPREHENSIVE RESUME, MOST RECENT 2 x 2 PHOTO, AND NBI CLEARANCE TO:
**Unit 802-C Valencia Hills Condominiums, N. Domingo Street, Quezon City**

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## Secura International Corp.

"Exclusive Distributor of **Amersham Biosciences, Eppendorf, Biacore, Nova, Vysis, ISMATEC and Biosys**"

invites applicants for the position of:

### SALES REPRESENTATIVE
- ○ Graduate of Chemistry, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering
- ○ At least 2 years selling experience in food and pharmaceutical industries
- ○ Willing to accept provincial assignments

### MARKETING ASSISTANT/SECRETARY
- ○ Management or Secretarial graduate with computer literacy

Send resumé with picture to:
**Secura International Corp.**
**Unit 707, Cityland Shaw Tower**
**Shaw Blvd. cor. St. Francis St.**
**Mandaluyong City**
E-mail: secura@info.com.ph

**Applications must be received by the company ASAP.**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

**1 Secretary** - Female

**1 Secretary/Accountant** - Male or Female

**1 Accountant** - Male

**1 Filing Clerk** - Female

All applicants must have computer knowledge and college degree.

Send their application papers and bio-data to:

**Room 302, Madrigal Bldg.,**
**Escolta, Manila**

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## JOIN THE PIONEER AND THE LEADER

We are a stable company that has been in existence for the past five decades. We are looking for an individual who is professional, hardworking, dedicated and willing to grow with us.

WE ARE IN NEED OF:

## HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

- Must be at least forty (40) years old
- College graduate with a degree in Law or Psychology
- Computer literate
- Well-versed and have extensive experience in all facets of personnel management, with emphasis on recruitment and hiring, 201-file management and benefits administration

An attractive compensation package and other fringe benefits await qualified applicants.

Please send your comprehensive resumé with your latest colored passport size picture to:

**Director of Administration**
**Box KA-016-02-FI**
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
G/F Trinity Bldg., #636 T.M. Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila

Email: **jm1@inquirer.com.ph**
(Subject: FI)

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A Social Enterprise Organization
is in urgent need of a

## BOOKKEEPER

- ✓ Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- ✓ Must have proficiency with computerized bookkeeping
- ✓ At least 28 years old
- ✓ Must be a team player with good oral and written communication
- ✓ Preferably with related working experience for not less than three years
- ✓ Can work with minimal supervision

Written applications with your curriculum vitaé should be sent to the Executive Director at:

2594 Lamayan St., Sta. Ana, Manila
or through Fax No 563-4632
E-mail: safrudi@skyinet.net

and must arrive not later than May 31, 2002.
Only prequalified applicants will be notified.

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## FULLTECH, INC.

Fulltech, Inc. seeks a dynamic individual to handle the sales of water, wastewater, flow, level, temperature and analytical monitoring products, UPS & AVR.

- Male or Female 23 years old and above
- Engineering graduate
- At least 2 years experience in Sales and/or Technical service
- Proficient in oral & written communication skills
- Computer literate
- Must know how to drive

Submit your resumé to:
Rms. 202/207 Estuar Bldg., 41 Timog Ave., QC
E-mail: fulltech@i-next.net

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## YOUR CONNECTION TO
## BETTER PEOPLE, BETTER JOBS.

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer
and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE

**The Foreign Service Institute wishes to invite applicants for the following positions:**

| TITLE OF POSITION/ DESIGNATION | NUMBER OF VACANCIES | SALARY GRADE | QUALIFICATION STANDARDS |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. **Administrative Officer V** | 1 | 24 | Masteral degree; 4 years in position/s involving management and supervision; 24 hours of training in management and supervision; Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility |
| 2. **Computer Programmer III/ MIS Head** | 1 | 18 | Preferably Computer Engineering, Computer Science or Information Technology Management graduate; at least 2 years experience in progressively responsible positions in IT administration, management and operations; 8 hours relevant training in IT or MIS; have demonstrated supervisory skills; proficient in Visual Basic 6.0 and html, MS Windows NT4, internet and intranet, hardware and network diagnostics; excellent oral and written English communications skills; excellent customer service orientation; Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility |
| 3. **Senior Foreign Affairs Research Specialist** | 3 | 18 | Preferably Political Science, International Relations, Foreign Service or Economics graduates. Other courses: Sociology Communication Arts minor in Political Science; 2 years relevant experience; 8 hours relevant training; Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility |
| 4. **Board Secretary II** | 1 | 17 | Bachelor's degree; 1 year experience as a Board Secretary or Executive Secretary; 4 hours relevant training; Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility |
| 5. **Scholarship Affairs Officer II** | 1 | 16 | Bachelor's degree; 1 year relevant experience; 4 hours relevant training; Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility |
| 6. **Training Specialist II** | 1 | 15 | Bachelor's degree; 1 year relevant experience; 4 hours relevant training; Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility |
| 7. **Foreign Affairs Research Specialist II** | 6 | 15 | Preferably Political Science, International Relations, Foreign Service or Economics graduates. Other courses: Sociology, Communication Arts minor in Political Science; 1 year relevant experience; 4 hours relevant training; Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility |
| 8. **Supply Officer II** | 1 | 14 | Bachelor's degree; 1 year relevant experience; 4 hours relevant training; Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility |
| 9. **Training Specialist I** | 1 | 11 | Bachelor's degree; training and experience not required; Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility |
| 10. **Foreign Affairs Research Specialist I** | 6 | 11 | Preferably Political Science, International Relations, Foreign Service or Economics graduates. Other courses; Sociology, Communication Arts minor in Political Science; training and experience not required; Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility |
| 11. **Librarian I** | 2 | 10 | Degree in Library Science, Information Science, Education/ Arts major in Library Science; training and experience not required; RA 1080 |
| 12. **Computer Operator II** | 1 | 9 | Completed at least two years studies in college; 1 year relevant experience; 4 hours relevant experience; Career Service (Sub professional) Data Encoder (MC 11, s. 96-CAT. 1) First Level Eligibility |
| 13. **Stenographer II** | 1 | 6 | Completed at least two years studies in college; training and experience not required; Career Service (Sub professional) First Level Eligibility |
| 14. **Clerk III** | 2 | 6 | Completed at least two years studies in college; training and experience not required; Career Service (Sub professional) First Level Eligibility |
| 15. **Human Resource Assistant** | 1 | N/A | Preferably a graduate of Behavioral Psychology, Behavioral Science or any related field of study; at least 1 year work exposure in HR particularly in the areas of recruitment, testing and selection, performance management systems, career development and organization development; excellent written and oral English communication skills; creative, resourceful, analytical, team player, proficient in computer operations and possesses excellent interpersonal skills. |

Please forward your letter of application, comprehensive resumé and a recent photo, and copy of documentary evidence of Civil Service eligibility to:

The Personnel Officer
Foreign Service Institute
5/F Department of Foreign Affairs Building
2330 Roxas Boulevard, 1300 Pasay City
or
visit the FSI website at www.fsi.gov.ph and email us at fsi@info.com.ph (use .txt format only)

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# URGENTLY REQUIRED

## MASSEUSE / THERAPIST*

**Qualifications:**
- At least 2 years working experience
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GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
May 19, 2002

*Fiery*
*Winnie Monsod*
*and cool*
*Oscar Orbos*
*are the perfect*
*referees for*
*'Debate,'*
*the loudest show*
*on television*

# Late Night Provocateurs

*By Cora Llamas*
*Photographs by Jim Guiao Punzalan*

**ONE is fiery and passionate, while the other remains cool and unperturbed under fire. Her outspokenness has ruffled many feathers, while his enviable gift for diplomacy can reportedly dampen short fuses. They're bonded by a love for the truth and the capacity to stand up for what they believe is right.**

**Which probably explains why Winnie Monsod and Oscar Orbos, armed with their unerring wit, impeccable logic and down-to-earth sensibilities, are the perfect hosts to referee the loudest show on television.**

**"Debate with Pare at Mare" is the farthest thing from a typical, sedate talk show. First of all, it's not a talk show, it's a debate, with the champions from both sides of a heated issue making their voices heard in no uncertain terms. And they do it in all candor, with their emotions in full swing as their ideas. The free-for-all ambience thrives on heated exchange. Sometimes, especially when tensions run high, the participants give as good as they get.**

A large part of the audience believes that, given the chance, so can the hosts. During its early start, many viewers had hoped that Pare and Mare themselves, who only give their points of view during the wrap-up, would get into their own battle for the brains. It was a format the creative team had considered, tried out, and nixed.

"The initial plan was for Winnie and I take up opposite positions," Orbos grins wryly, remembering. "But most of the time, our positions agreed. It came to the point that *nagbubunutan na kami* as to who would take which side. Eventually, I told Winnie, 'I cannot do this. It would be contrived.' *Ang sabi niya*, 'It's the same with me.'"

Call it a mind-meld or trace it to a 30-year friendship. But the intellectual rapport and camaraderie are unmistakably there. It's like a tennis match between veteran partners, both instinctively aware of each other's moves, hitting with the right amount of force at the exact moment to generate equilibrium.

"There have been no serious disagreements," Winnie scoffs at the idea. "And how can we have friction? He's my first *inaanak sa kasal*."

In moderating, the hosts do their best to keep their own biases out of the debate. But there have been trying moments when it was simply impossible to keep them out of their faces, let alone remain silent.

The most obvious disagreement between the two happened during Erap's presidency. One panelist said that the chief executive was the father of the country. "I HATE that idea," Winnie's confession comes out with the expected sparks. "The president is the servant-leader, not the father, for God's sake! Sure, the Americans had their founding fathers, but Bush is by no means considered the father of his country." When Orbos apparently voiced his agreement, Winnie interjected, "No way! If Erap is the father of my country, I'd rather be an orphan!" This was on-air.

"Oca is a very good foil," Winnie acknowledges her co-host affectionately, "He's so polite and diplomatic. He always manages to say the right things that will make both sides feel good. THAT is a gift I don't have. If I am asked a question, I will answer *derecho*—and in so doing, I know I have alienated the other side."

That straightforwardness has served the show in good stead. The guests may argue as loudly and

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as passionately as they like, but name-calling is strictly prohibited. "I draw the line when the insults become personal. And they know it. I really get upset."

It's one rule that she applies to herself. "I never say anything in malice. I'm just saying it as it is. No offense was meant. It's not like I have a hidden agenda and am throwing dirt at somebody. THAT I cannot stand."

Monsod had the mettle and genes to be a bold, honest journalist. Her father, Juan Collas, was a writer for the uncompromising Philippines Free Press, a publication that was a bane to corrupt officials and one of the first to be shut down during martial law. A college-age Winnie tagged along to some of her dad's meetings. "He presented me a lot of role models. One of them was Claro M. Recto, who was vilified during the 1950s for being 'anti-American.' My father showed me people who were not afraid of the powers that be. They just told government the truth, probably suffered for it—but stood their ground."

As fate turned out, Monsod became an economist. She brings its discipline to the televised debate. "An economist is trained in logic. In making a decision, he looks at the costs and benefits. The same thing happens—with the panelists and audience—in a debate."

Contrary to what many people think, debates are not designed to resolve issues. Nor is *"Debate"* burdened with the responsibility of harmonizing its opposing guests to agree at the end.

"A debate never settles anything," Oscar explains the tradition that goes back to the Grecian pantheon, the Roman senate, and the British parliament. "It's meant to bring out your position. You test it, and others are given the same opportunity. The very opportunity of exchange is the key. The audience will get to hear all sides. The debate will make them either rethink or more resolute of their positions."

As for the debaters making their voices heard, they are "made aware that there are other voices out there that are equally weighty and as determined. A debate forces you to reassess the mere fact that there are others with differing opinions." And that, says Orbos, is a minor form of true democracy in action.

The show's admirers would agree with him. In *"Debate,"* people can air their side of a story without fear of censorship. More important, they face head-on their antagonists, testing their case before an equally involved public. Everyone is given a chance to assert and defend.

On the other hand, the show's detractors debunk this freedom as a virtual rowdy *palengke,* where ideas and issues are lost amidst the din. They say that the public learn nothing but only get entertained in a sideshow that leaves bruised egos and even greater confusion.

"How can it be a debate if it's not *magulo?*" Oscar retorts rhetorically. He emphasizes that an "educational process" exists in the show. People who test their ideas in a free and challenging intellectual forum learn to stand for themselves and assert their views, while respecting the opposite side.

That kind of attitude counters a more dictatorial mindset. People who have it and are in power don't like their orders being examined. "For example, someone becomes a leader and suddenly becomes authoritative. No way! A leader still has to hold his position on his own merits. He shouldn't put down the others who have equal rights to say what they want! If you don't have this kind of intellectual openness, someone can have the airs of a king. Now that's very dangerous in a democracy."

The calmer part of the *"Debate"* pair does have his fiery side. Expounding on this particular point during the interview certainly brought it out. As a seasoned lawyer, Oscar certainly knows the importance of letting all sides of an issue be heard.

"I am strong in my positions and convictions," he admits. "What's also important is the weight I have to give the opinions of other people. Because they are out there, and it's not only I who lives on this world."

An advocate who supports the merits of one perspective, Oscar's experience comes in handy when the host in him has to bring out a position he personally doesn't agree with. "It IS a struggle," he admits. "The host's position is unique. I may not agree with a panelist, but I have to bring out what he has to say so he can defend his position. I give leading questions. In that exchange, *hindi dapat lumabas iyong totoong posisyon ko* (My real position should not come out)."

Behind the TV talk: Winnie helps Oca with his wardrobe in an off-camera moment

This policy carries a job hazard. Winnie recounts, "As hosts, we shore up the weak side, regardless of what we believe. The objective is to make the issues' both sides come out. If this side is weak, I will attack the other side even if I agree with the latter."

In one particular testy episode, Winnie did a good job of hitting one camp that one guest accused her of bias afterwards. Ironically, her personal views were in total agreement with his.

The debate has its stinging, thorny sides, but Winnie and Oscar will not have it another way. Whether it's because of a love for democracy or a mind for debate, they'll be the first ones to uphold that everyone has an opinion—and the right to say it loud and fight for it.

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**The Cover Image** Winnie Monsod and Oscar Orbos are the perfect referees for the loudest show on TV.
*Photograph by Jim Gulao Punzalan*

## Poetry

### Counter Strike
*kay Tatay*

Pinag-aralan natin ang bawat kilos
at titig ng ating mga kaaway.
Agad-agad nating napupulsahan kung may
nagkukubli sa likod ng matatarik na pader
o sa bawat kanto ng paliku-likong daan.
Lagi natin nauungusan ang ating mga kalaban
bago pa man nila tayo paulanan ng bala.
Lakad tayo nang lakad,
hangga't di natutunton ang teritoryong pakay.
Wala tayong sinasayang na oras.
May sukat ang bawat hakbang natin,
bilang ang balang iluluwa ng ating armalyt.
Ikaw sa unahan,
ako sa hulihan.

Hahagilap tayo ng panandaliang kublian
kapag kapwa nakadama ng matinding pagod.
Muli tayong magpaplano sa gagawing pagsugod.
At muling magsusukat ng mga hakbang,
magbibilang ng mga reserbang bala at lakas.
Dagdagan ang pundasyon ng loob
upang patayin ang di maubos-ubos na kalaban.

Ngunit nasira ang ating plano
nang tamaan ka ng isang ligaw na bala.

Habang ika'y nakahalindusay at nag-aagaw buhay,
itinuloy ko ang laban
at pilit inutas ang isa-isang nagsusulputang kaaway
sa isang kinalimutang gusali.
Napasakamay ko ang teritoryo.
At sa isip ko,
kaya ko rin palang mapagtagumpayan ang laban
kahit wala ka.

**Genaro R. Gojo Cruz**

### A Makeshift Bed
*For L.*

It's odd, you know, how, in the absence of shelves,
my bed has become a bungle of books and a mess
of unfinished manuscripts. And it's senseless
sleeping now, senseless sleeping, on a bed whose
mattress can't even be seen, like your eyes concealed
beneath closed lids or you hidden behind a shower
curtain, swathed in soap and warm water, steam
emanating from your skin. And for such mundane
reasons I have decided to sleep on the sofa now,
sleep on the sofa, where, apparently, I've found
a comfy spot in one cozy corner of the living room,
somewhere near the TV and the fish in the aquarium
to amuse me on nights when I'm too lonesome to nap.
Later on, I find out that the sofa has become rather
cramped for me, too small, confined, too custom-made
for one only, unable to accommodate you—unless,
of course, you're on top of me: a makeshift bed for two.

**Angelo V. Suárez**

### Cubao Aurora

Hindi ang andap ng bumbilya
Kundi ang lamlam ng kanyang mata.
Hindi ang dilim ng kalsada
Kundi ang kinang ng lanseta.

Ang matandang nakatulog.
Ang mamang nauntog.
Ang istampitang nayugyog.
Ang basurahang umalug-alog.

Kolehiyalang pindot nang pindot.
Ang marahang pagtutok.
Bahagyang sundot.
Ang yabang na hinablot.

Karimlang tinakluban ng kongkretong panimdim.
Tanging kislap ng mata o bituin, patalim.

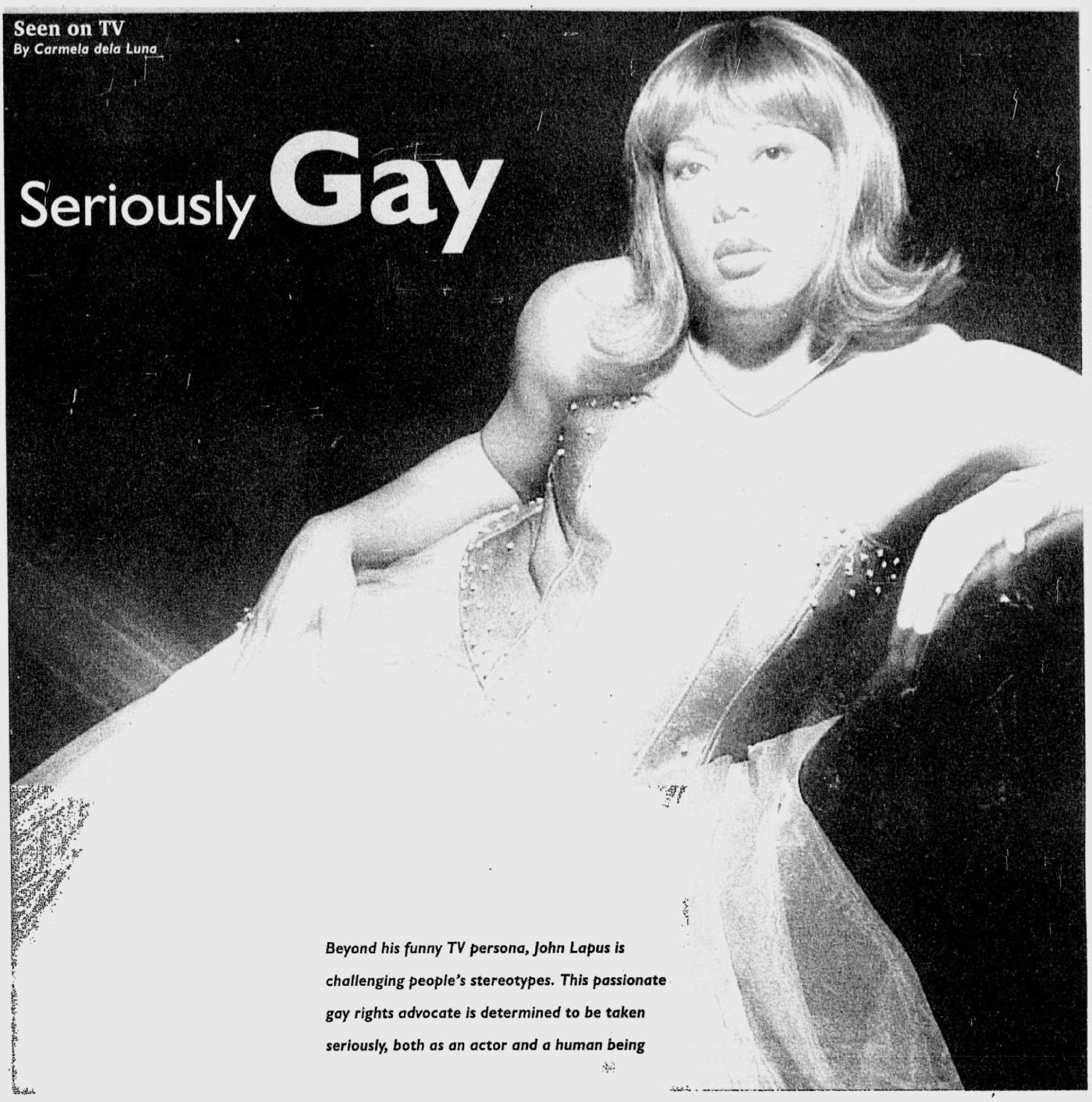
**Alwynn C. Javier**

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

**Seen on TV**

*By Carmela dela Luna*

# Seriously Gay



***Beyond his funny TV persona, John Lapus is challenging people's stereotypes. This passionate gay rights advocate is determined to be taken seriously, both as an actor and a human being***

**WITH HIS colorful, dynamic TV presence, John Lapus has given homosexuality a fresh and vibrant look. He is, in fact, one of the few who can claim that his being gay has pushed him forward rather than pulled him down. "What people know about gay people, they often pick up from newspapers and television shows, which degrade homosexuality in most people's eyes," says John. "Most gays on TV wind up with cake slapped on their faces." For John, it became evident that the image was terribly wrong.**

Since he first became familiar to most households for his sidekick act in ABS-CBN's movie talk show "Cristy Per Minute," John's raspy voice has become one of the most recognizable in the industry, coupled with antics and a personality that promises gayness at its loudest. But this flamboyant TV and movie persona has a far bigger story to tell.

The second of two children of a Kapampangan father and a "full-blooded Tondo girl," Jonathan Anthony Solis Lapus was born in Manila and grew up in Lagro, Novaliches. Life became difficult when his father abandoned them when he was 11. "There was only my mom, a public school teacher, to sustain us," he recalls. Sometimes they didn't even have toothpaste, he adds.

Show business and a colorful family life was something of a tradition in their clan, John reveals. "*Magulo talaga* ang family *namin.* I think the most blatant example would be my *lolo.* He was in showbiz too," he says. His grandfather, *Ka* Tino Lapus, hosted "*Eskwelahang Munti,*" an amateur talent show similar to "*Ang TV*" and *Kuya* Germs' "That's Entertainment," that can be credited for discovering then child star Connie Angeles and Edgar Mortiz. "My *lolo* was known for having fathered 52 children from several women. I imagine that when he died, he had maybe a hundred or more grandchildren."

John's sexual orientation initially alarmed his mother, Sally Lapus. "When I was a child, my mother really didn't want me to become gay," he recalls. "Until I turned 12, my mom would go with me to shop for my clothes because I had this tendency to choose feminine outfits." It was only in his second year in college at the University of Santo Tomas that John's mother would come to terms with her son's homosexuality. As John's birthday approached, his mother decided to throw a party for him where all his friends were invited. "*Yung* classmates *ko lang?*" he asked. Countered his mother, "*Di ba may mga kaibigan ka sa* theater guild *ninyo?*" That and her meaningful glance was all John needed to be reassured of her acceptance.

Already an active member of Teatro Tomasino, John pursued a degree in hotel and restaurant management, determined to make something of his life. "I promised myself that I would never go hungry again, that I would never ever have to entertain neighbors and friends just so I could eat." The stroke of luck, destined to define his life, stemmed from his consistent involvement with Teatro. "It was there that I met my sisters, *yung mga ate kong bakla,* who at that time were already working in ABS-CBN, the newly-opened station after the Edsa Revolution," he recalls.

"Some of them became pioneers at the network," he says. "As their little sister, *ginawa nila akong manika* (they turned me into their plaything)," John recounts with a mix of fondness and disdain. "When they were depressed, they'd ask me to dance. So I'd dance. I performed on demand. In return, they'd buy me dinner. But more importantly, I was able to form relationships with people who knew my talent for entertainment."

Such bonds proved handy when John graduated from college in 1993. On his friends' recommendation, he immediately got work as a researcher for "Showbiz Lingo," an entertainment program. With time on his hands, he also managed to pitch in as an extra on various television shows which gave him much-needed additional income.

When money became tighter and talent coordinators and producers had to contend with a limited budget, John became a handy choice over more established talents. "Other stars charged higher talent fees, so the shows got me instead." After producers saw his potential, offers poured in for his services, both as an actor and a production staffer.

His career flourished to the point that he had to line up his priorities. By the year 2000, he decided to concentrate on being an actor. He was, at that time, also creative consultant for the Star Cinema promotions department, segment producer for "The Buzz," and pictorial director for Star Cinema. "While I'm still young and fresh, I told myself that this was what I had to do," John says. "Two or five years from now there will be younger gays, more energetic than I am, more attractive, so I'm focused on being a starlet these days," he says with flourish.

His mug can now be regularly seen on the shows "The Buzz," with Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino, and "Arriba Arriba" with Jolina Magdangal. And John loves it. "It's always been like that for me. I love performing. Even in class, as soon as the teacher stepped out, I'd be acting out what I saw on TV the previous night."

But the loud, made-up John Lapus known to millions of viewers is transformed into the plain and silent Jonathan when confronted by one woman. To this day, John admits that he feels the need to tone down his looks and manners in front of his mother. "Out of respect for her dignity, I guess," says the 28-year-old actor.

"There was a time when I denied my true sexuality because my mother brought me up on the concept that being gay is wrong and unacceptable," John muses. "I think what makes matters worse is that I am the first and only gay person in our family." Coming out was not easy. "As early as age four or five, I knew I was different from other boys my age," he recalls. "But I had this tendency to deny it for my mother's sake. But I was having crushes on my boy playmates. I knew even then that, sh-t, I'm gay! For how long could I have denied it? I had my first sexual experience at 12, hello!"

But the flippant persona that John exhibits on TV screens is a significant contrast to the passionate gay rights' advocate he is in real life. John says he understands that many people have their own reason for being homophobic. "But I wish they'd make a distinction. There may be a few bad eggs, but not all of us are. What I really want is for us to be treated like the human beings that we are. Treat us according to our own actions, and not according to popular misconceptions."

John says he wants to make a difference in the public's perception of homosexuals through the entertainment industry. "I want to serve as an example to all the *baklas* out there. I want them to learn from me that they should stand for their rights and not allow others to smother their faces with cake. I was watching this 'TV Patrol' episode where a young homosexual was placed behind bars because he hit some people taunting him for being gay. I want to try to get *baklas* into a society that they don't have to fear." He'd like people to be more tolerant. "A man having sex with another man may be a sin, but a man wearing make-up is not a sin; a man wearing a woman's clothes is not a sin," he insists.

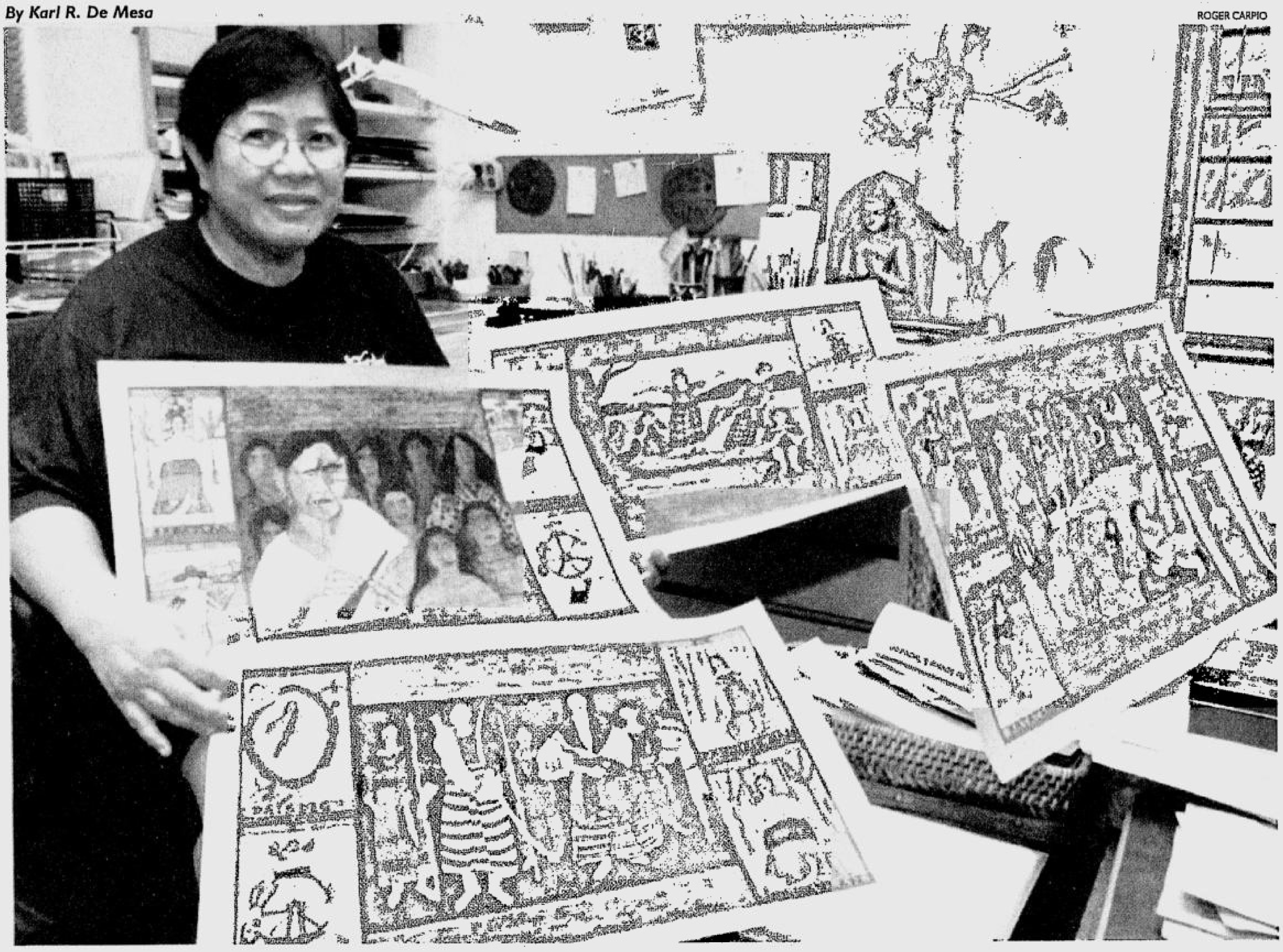
Not surprisingly, he sees himself having a normal family relationship in the future. "I see myself finding the right man. We'd probably adopt, have a family. We'll grow old together and grow bulges and wrinkles together. Even in the eyes of God, I cannot see why loving like that would be a sin. Homosexuality is not about a sexual act, it's about a state of mind and emotion."

He leaves no room for doubt about the matter: He is proud to be gay. On this Saturday night, he is preparing himself to host a fashion show in Malate, an area known as the country's gay central. The fashion show is, in fact, for Pride Exchange, the only gay store in Manila. John draws a cigarette from his red shoulder bag, lights it up, and calmly puffs out a steady stream of smoke. In Malate, he is in his element, with passersby giving him a nod of recognition and respect. "I live by believing in myself. It's one of my basic weapons," he says defiantly. "It's the very essence of homosexuality." ◘

**Artwatch**

*By Karl R. De Mesa*

ROGER CARPIO



# Brenda Fajardo's Visions in Gold

*The reluctant artist and educator, who found a wealth of symbolism in her trademark tarot paintings, takes on new colors, dimensions and moods in her latest works*

**LAY down a Tarot card for Brenda Fajardo. The High Priestess, most likely. Ask any diviner from Quiapo to the New Age cafés, and they'll tell you that this card means mystery, the depths of female terra incognita. The picture in the card shows a woman sitting between two pillars of a temple, holding a screen before her. The screen separates the true seeker from the profane who would plumb its fathoms.**

To many, Fajardo is this High Priestess, and her art functions much the same way. Behind a brilliant career in visual arts that spans more than three decades Fajardo is not only a painter, but also a dedicated educator, an entrepreneur, a staunch feminist and a visionary.

Her accomplishments are both the envy and inspiration of many artists. She has been awarded, among others, the National Research Council's Lifetime Achievement Award in the Humanities in the year 2000 and the CCP's Centennial Honors for Visual Arts and Theater in 1999. She has served as head of the committee on visual arts for the NCCA and is a founding member of the feminist art group *Kababaihan sa Sining at Bagong Sibol na Kamalayan* or KASIBULAN. Her paintings have taken her from Havana to Paris. The significance of her works, especially in international circles, has paved the way for other local artists to break through to the foreign art scene.

But she shrugs these off like excess baggage, preferring to get to the heart of the matter. And that is? "Art," she declares. "What else? I insert history and facts in my art so the pieces are loaded with meaning."

Indeed, meaning is something that suffuses her work. In many of her pieces Fajardo has primarily used the images of the Tarot to express an unflinching, often socio-political commentary on Philippine society and culture.

Her lifelong romance with the Tarot began when her sister gave her a deck as a gift sometime in the early 1970s. She was fascinated with the images and the obvious symbolism. "It was much later that I found out what the pictures meant," she explains.

She denies, though, that her use of the Tarot is for anything other than symbolic purposes. "My motivation to use the Tarot was not only because of its inherent symbolism and the multiple meanings," she explains, "but also because I was interested in *anting-anting* and other such talismans."

Born in 1940 to artistic-minded parents, Fajardo's mother, a dance instructor, decided to shift her daughter from dance to visual arts because she had been diagnosed with a rheumatic heart. This was while she was still in high school at the Philippine Women's University (PWU). When Fajardo reached college she decided to take up Agriculture at UP Los Banos, where she eventually graduated in 1959. This was because they had a farm in Negros. "The idea was to eventually take over the farm's operation," she says. But fate had other ideas.

Her teacher from PWU had just put up a grade school class for the arts at the Ateneo de Manila University and asked her if she was interested in a teaching job. She said yes. This was how her career as an educator began, instructing children on the rudiments of paint and color. At that time she knew little about actual teaching, and so she often went to the nearby library to read on how to conduct lessons. There, she found out about a field called Arts Education and realized that was the next step. This compelled her to apply for a Fulbright scholarship and, as good fortune would have it, she passed. Spirits high, she hied off to Madison to take up a Master of Arts at the University of Wisconsin, completing it in 1967.

She returned to the Philippines in 1968 and broadened her skills by learning printmaking under the senior Manuel Rodriguez. While there, she got to know other young artists, thereby making her first connection with the local art community.

"Through all this time I had absolutely no intention of being an artist," she admits. From 1973 to 1988 Fajardo acted in, produced and directed plays for PETA. "While I was in theater my friends in the visual arts were convincing me to exhibit. But I kept putting it off. Finally, when my interest in theater was starting to wane, I gave in."

Sometime in the early 1980s she did her first series of Tarot cards for a solo exhibit. These early pieces had browns and monochromes, shades of black. Eventually the card borders would gain color, often golden, but the events remained rooted in earth tones, giving way to her dichotomy of the spiritual and the real.

After other exhibitions, another Tarot series was sent to Havana in 1989. There, some French curators saw it and were impressed. When the same curators were in town looking for Filipino talent for an exhibit they were putting up, they sought out Fajardo.

"The funny thing was I actually told CCP not to bring them here because, at that time, the house was being renovated, I had had walls knocked down. The timing couldn't have been worse," she narrates.

But CCP insisted. So Fajardo put all the relevant paintings in her bedroom. When the curator arrived, he took one look at the paintings and said, "You are going to Paris!"

"I was shocked," Fajardo confesses.

The recognition was undeniable. After years of shrugging off the artist tag, here was the title being handed to her in big block letters with a bonus trip to the City of Lights.

"Afterwards, everything fell into place. Everything."

One of the things that just "fell into place" was the recent exhibit titled "Foundations of Gold." The exhibit, which began July of last year, arrived in town two months ago, at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. The project was part of Australia's 150th celebration of gold's discovery in the city of Melbourne, and was overseen in cooperation with Asialink.

The idea was to get artists from other Asian countries like India, Singapore, Korea and of course the Philippines, partner them with a native Mebourne artist, hand them an amount of actual gold as part of their material, and then leave them on their own for a month to see what the arranged coupling would produce. Fajardo was chosen as the Filipino representative.

Fajardo was matched with another painter, Caroline Williams. She lived in Williams' beach side studio-house for the first week before moving to another studio to work. Fajardo fondly refers to Williams as "a very individuated person, unique. She certainly has a huge sense of humor. She used to climb mountains in Greece. She would sometimes go to a party and wear a blue wig for fun. We had good chemistry."

And good chemistry was certainly what they had, judging by the stunning results. Fajardo's work in "Foundations of Gold" has surpassed her past efforts. The size, for one, is the biggest scale Fajardo has ever worked in so far. "Caroline is used to painting in huge proportions. So we agreed that we would do all the paintings in that format. The *raison d'etre* was that she would undoubtedly drown me out if I didn't," Fajardo clarifies.

Her work is now coupled with a sense of celebration, rather than the rage or anger which characterized her earlier Tarot pieces. In *"Gintong Bayan,"* for example, gold leaf outlines the people at EDSA in a shining aura of benevolence and community, while in another piece the coins of gold in one cup balance the scales of a quiet Lady Justice against a crowd of women in another cup.

Works like these are what Fajardo is known for: the illuminating vision that leads the viewer to another level. Its resonance is so strong that, we suspect, perhaps the screen that the High Priestess holds isn't meant to protect the secrets from us, but to keep the revelations from devouring us.

"I have two types of art," Fajardo asserts. "One is mythological, one is social commentary. I need to contextualize my existence, you see. And 'Foundations of Gold' is another medium for this."

To date, Fajardo is preparing another series of 12 Tarot paintings for a show on women, set to open in Korea in early June. There's also a workshop coming up for kids, where she'll teach them how to use gold as a primary color for artwork and therapy.

Before she retires—and at 62 she sees it daily coming nearer—she wants to do a Tarot series on the Apocalypse. "But I'm still studying that. I want to say something like 'Look, this is the revelation and it's not a bad thing per se because it's already been decoded for us.'"

The rest of us, meanwhile, will be content with the fortune she discloses to us with her powerful, if reluctant, clairvoyance.

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*"Foundations of Gold" will be on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila until June 22. The Met is located at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. It is open from Mondays to Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For inquiries call 523-0613 or 521-1517.*

## Little Lives

*By Ed L. Santoalla*

This way, Esguerra shows an aspiring OPA

ROGER MARGALLO

# Champion of the Japayukis

***Lawrence Esguerra helps preserve dignity of labor for these much-maligned overseas performing artists (OPA) by conducting free, informative and entertaining seminars, covering everything from filling up a pre-departure form to staying away from drugs***

**IF YOU are interested in knowing more about the bittersweet realities of the Philippine entertainment labor export industry, particularly the exodus of Filipinas to Japan, go visit the PDOS (pre-departure orientation seminar) area of the Philippines Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) every Thursday morning. There, catch a performance that will, to quote Penelope Cruz in "Vanilla Sky," "open your eyes."**

For three hours, starting at nine in the morning of that day, Lawrence Esguerra stands before a group of aspiring overseas performing artists (OPAs) and gives them the mandatory low-down on what it takes for them to leave the country and work in Japan.

Larry or Lo, as Esguerra is known to friends, is just one of several persons tasked with giving OPAs the PDOS, a requirement that these mostly female groups of Japan job seekers (and to which the derogatory term "Japayuki" has been assigned) once had to comply with before they were even allowed to enter into any contract with a recruiter or employer.

But Lo's PDOS, formerly at the POEA and now in the private sector, are the most sought-after. The reason for this is that Lo gives a seminar that is a performance in itself. While brutally frank from start to finish, it is steeped with a down-to-earth sense of humor and a heartwarming sense of empathy that forces his listeners to remain attentive.

A few minutes into his presentation, and knowing that this is a group that easily gets bored, Lo immediately works to grab the eyes and ears of his clients. This, by telling them right off that he is someone who has walked the walk.

Lo was an OPA himself. A product of the University of the Philippines, he spent the '60s completing a degree in foreign service while performing with the UP Mixed Concert Chorus. In 1964, he joined the world tour of the Filipinescas Dance Company. He then became part of an all-male showband called the Six Halves, which went on local and international tours and became regulars of a television series titled "Six Halves in Focus" that aired (sort of like the first Filipino music video) on ABS-CBN channel 9 for one whole year in 1969.

"I am one of the original Filipino OPAs," Lo tells his audience by way of an introduction. From there, he launches into a discussion of the realities that face Filipinas aspiring to become "Japayukis," originally a term that simply and neutrally meant "one who goes to Japan."

The first such reality is the negative public perception of Japayukis. Lo walks his listeners through an imaginary but reality-based tale that ends with the jarring message "*nakakahiya ang maging* Japayuki (It is shameful to become a Japayuki)."

He then segues into comparing the work and income of OPAs as dancers, singers and musicians with, say, doctors. "If he or she does well, an OPA in Japan can initially earn as much as US$800 a week," Lo says. "A doctor just starting his or her career as an intern or in private practice could hardly approach that amount."

Lo further cites the benefits that OPAs bring to the country in terms, for instance, of ancillary industries (e.g. tailors who are given work making the costumes of OPAs), or of the millions of dollars that they infuse back into the chronically cash-strapped economy. He then asks his participants: "*Sino ngayon ang nakakahiya? Dapat ang bayan ang mahiya sa inyo*! (Who should now be shameful? It is the country that should feel shame before you)."

The point of Lo's discourse is to jar OPAs out of the self-image that has been imposed upon them by society, and make them proud of their profession. He warns OPAs, though, that "you can only be proud if you have something to be proud of." He reminds them that they have to be able to perform, or they will end up being charged with breach of contract and forced to do things they didn't apply for such as cleaning the toilet or worse, going into prostitution.

"If you can't perform, don't go," Lo tells his wards. "And if you're doing drugs, don't go or at least go into rehab first," he adds, saying not being able to perform and being a junkie were the lethal combination that did in Maricris Sioson, the Japayuki who came home in a coffin, allegedly a victim of torture and drug abuse, sometime in the '80s. After the cautionary tales, Lo then launches into a stand-up comedy routine that parodies the fits and foibles of first-time OPA travelers to Japan, from the mis-filling of airline pre-departure counter forms ("sex = once a month") to airplane toilet humor and comic foul-ups in club destinations. He then gives tips on Japanese culture meant to enable OPAs to provide maximum quality service to their clients and earning maximum income from tips, without debasing or degrading themselves.

"I have a profession to protect. I have you to protect," admonishes this 30-year veteran of the entertainment export industry.

Lo owes a lot to the industry, having made a lucrative business of recruiting, training and sending OPAs himself to Japan. His volunteer PDOS work at POEA was a part of his advocacy to free the entertainment export industry from the clutches of unscrupulous persons who engage in white slavery under the guise of legitimate overseas entertainment.

Such bad eggs can be unrelenting. Last March 12 and March 20, obviously under pressure from such sectors, a Metro Manila court imposed a permanent injunction stopping government from regulating, through the process of training, testing and accreditation, the deployment of overseas performing artists. The injunction has put on hold Lo's orientation seminar for OPAs at the POEA. But he continues the effort at the private sector level, particularly through the Pangarap Foundation for OPAs (PFOPA), a new NGO he helped organize to continue to provide skills training and values education to talented Filipinos wanting to pursue a career in overseas entertainment.

Key to protecting OPAs, Lo believes, is the development of an educated and empowered OPA workforce. Lo has authored and produced career training manuals and handbooks for OPAs, and business and ethical guidelines for the industry aimed at weeding it of non-talents who are just out to prostitute themselves in Japan.

Knowing also full well the importance of preparing OPAs not only for departure but also for returning and reintegrating back into Philippine society at the end of their work contracts, Lo has helped forge a partnership between PEEPA and Pangarap Services Inc. The product is a private investment advisory and skills training outfit that would help OPAs save and set aside some of their earnings for insurance purposes and a seed fund that would help them set up sustainable businesses upon their return to the country. PEEPA and Pangarap are also now working with Japanese employers to set up assistance centers for OPAs working in the sprawling Kansai district of Tokyo, Japan. After all, as Lo reiterates, glitter and all, the Japayuki is as much a modern-day Filipino hero as the next hardworking, long-suffering OCW.

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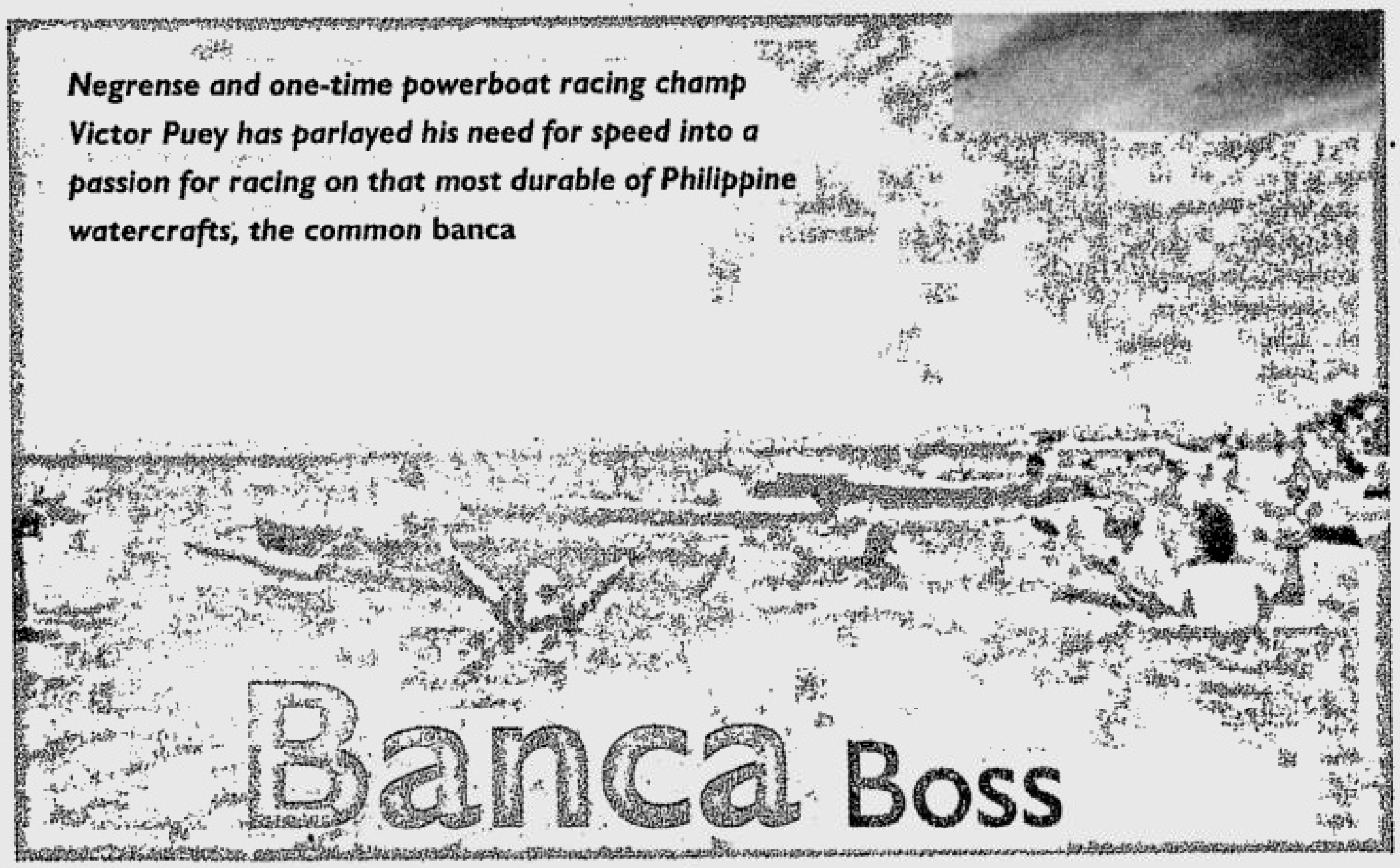
## Noteworthy

*By Carla P. Gomez*

ANDY ALVAREZ



# Banca Boss

***Negrense and one-time powerboat racing champ Victor Puey has parlayed his need for speed into a passion for racing on that most durable of Philippine watercrafts, the common* banca**

**FOR Negrense Victor Puey, sports has always meant racing on expensive motorcycles and speedboats, but now he is shifting gears to promote what he calls the "*Bangkarera Karera ng Masa.*"**

Puey, 55, is a former Negros Occidental provincial board member who, in his younger years, joined national and international racing competitions. In fact, he was a three-time national powerboat champion, from 1981-83, aside from also being a national karate champion in 1965, 1968 and 1970.

Today, Puey spends most of his days by the sea on the 13-hectare Lakawon Island, four hectares of which he runs with his wife Josie as a resort. It can be reached by a 10- to 15-minute pump boat ride from Cadiz City in northern Negros Occidental.

The island's white sand beach and crystal clear waters are a dream come true for a man like Puey, who has always loved the sea and the thrill of racing through its waters on jet skis, speedboats and water skis.

**Puey propels a race that speaks of the fishermen's livelihood.**

But nowadays he is preoccupied with a sport that's rapidly growing in popularity, called "*bangkarera.*"

Last Saturday and Sunday, 23 *bangkas* from various parts of the country, along with jet ski and water ski entries, joined the Shell X-100 Karera King Challenge in Lakawon. The *bangkarera* race was the first national-level competition in the country using the popular Philippine outrigger canoe, Puey says.

The Bulacan *banca* with rider Jun Cruz came in first, followed by Bulacan rider Boy Cruz and Batangas rider Bernard Mendoza. *Bangkarera* enthusiasts from all over the country converged on the island for the races. It was a weekend of fun as cottages overflowed with guests, some of whom pitched tents and slept on the sand in sleeping bags.

Many Filipinos who fish for a living on this archipelago depend on *bancas* for their day-to-day livelihood, which through the years has gotten a boost in speed with the advent of small eight to 16 horsepower engines—a long way from mere paddles, Puey says.

Through the years *banca* owners have improved the designs of their boats and have become skilled racers, he says. Races among friends and villagers have graduated into big events. Now, some pump boats can go nearly as fast as speedboats, over 50 mph.

Banca racing started in the early '70s and have increased with the help of aficionados like Puey. "These excellent craft are now no longer just a source of livelihood and transportation," Puey says. "They have become sources of real pleasure."

## The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

# A Pilgrim's Thanksgiving Marathon: A Personal Pentecost

*I'll bring a small healing and feeding team to visit some bedridden and housebound children and elderly as my way of remembering gratefully the times past when I, too, was remembered with love in those places, in my journey through seven decades*

Fr. Ben (second from right) with the youth of Bacolod

**FROM our SIM staff Pennie, Alya, Ruel, Eric, Chuchie and Shawie, I received a funny and heartwarming email at Easter time: "Happy 43rd year of priesthood!," they chirped. Nobody here could believe you're 69(!), and short of entering the religious order (meaning what?) ... We'd definitely like to follow your tips for eternal youth. Here, we simply lie about our age and we've remained thirty-somethings this past decade or so. Of course, the wrinkles know better and show up on schedule. Thanks, Fr. Ben, for remembering us on Easter and always, and for giving us regular doses of words to live and think by (without the guilt). God bless and may you have more years of priesthood ahead of you as you continue to touch and heal lives."**

Thank you guys up there at **SIM**.

Today, Pentecost Sunday, I'm inspired to spill the beans again by saying that I'll triumphantly hit 70, without fear or guilt, on December 19. But before that, I'll bracket the next seven months (June-December) for a "pilgrim's thanksgiving marathon" to 17 places significant to me in my journey through 70 years.

I'll bring a small healing and feeding team to visit some bedridden and housebound children and elderly as my way of remembering gratefully the times past when I, too, was remembered with love in those places, in my journey through seven decades.

**June:** I'll visit the infants at the Mary Johnston Hospital in Tondo where I was born (December 19, 1932), and confined in the ICU for two weeks later for infantile pneumonia (before antibiotics!). My panic-stricken mother (deceased, piously and perhaps mindlessly) made a vow offering her first-born son to the Santo Niño of Tondo—if I survived. Thanks to our family physician, a certain Dr. Arcilla (deceased) and the staff of the Mary Johnston Hospital, I survived (as you can see).

From the hospital, I'll walk to the Santo Niño Parish Church where the good, old and lovable Monsignor Jose Jovellanos (deceased) baptized me after that "miracle cure." *Ninang* was Ms. Concepcion Querubin (deceased), future national president of the Association of Saint John Marie Vianney (which was to help sponsor me through the seminary 18 years later).

**July:** Then, I'll proceed to the Saint Joseph Parish Church in Gagalangin (Tondo), my boyhood parish where I received my first call to the priesthood. I'll offer requiem prayers for the parish priest of my early youth, Rev. Pedro Pajarillo, and all the parish layfolk who saw me grow up in those days.

Then, I'm off to Mexico, Guagua and Sta. Rita in Pampanga. It was there that we were evacuated to at the start of World War II, and where I learned what it was to survive on corn and sugar cane, how it felt to be scared while being pursued by the Japanese soldiers through the corn and sugar cane fields. I'll exchange fond wartime memories with my boyhood friends who are *Lolo* and *Lola* Jologa to me.

**August:** I'll make a quiet homecoming to San Jose Seminary where I spent the best years of my youth (1950-1959) with my Jesuit mentors led by then "scholastic" and now retired Bishop Freddie O. Escaler and Joe Blanco.

After my Ordination (March 14, 1959), I was assigned to San Felipe Neri Parish (SFN: 1960-1963) as parochial vicar to Fr. Pantaleon de Guzman (deceased). I must visit Barrio Hulo and Barrio Barangka by the River Pasig, now progressive and independent parishes.

**September:** Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice on UP campus, Diliman, QC (now a parish). I remember with gratitude Fr. Pat Lim, Bishop Felix Perez (deceased), Fr. Gus Pedrosa and Fr. Jess Galvez (1963-1966).

Santa Rita Parish, Philamlife Homes, QC (1966-1970). I have memorable times with Monsignor Alfredo Reyes (deceased) and the original parishioners, now still active in their senior years. Remember the Association of Saint John Marie Vianney (witness to my premature birth, crucial postnatal pneumonia, "miracle cure," christening in Sto. Niño Church with *Ninang* Ching Querubin. Well, I have met the Association again at St. Rita Parish and, until now, the Saint John Marie Vianney Ladies have been providing our Center for Migrant Youth with free lunch every first Thursday of the month to help me feed the footloose and migrant poor from the streets.

Last May 2, I visited the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, then a crude chapel of the mother-parish of St. Rita where I was assigned to form my first BEC (basic ecclesial community).

**October:** Parokya ng San Juan Bautista, Tipas, Taguig (1970-1976) where we put up the Dambanang Kawayan for the fisher folk and bamboo growers of Tipas and Napindan.

**November:** Parokya ng Ina ng Laging Saklolo, Punta, Sta. Ana (1976-1982) where we put up the Dambanang Bayan for factory workers and small government employees and their basic communities.

**December:** Center for Migrant Youth (1982-the present ) Cordillera St., SMH, QC where we provide temporary shelter, education opportunities, community life for rural and migrant streetyouths who had been displaced in the city.

This might be the last time I'll announce my pilgrim's thanksgiving marathon. I have decided to keep this spiritual exercise a private and quiet project—no publicity, no flourish of trumpets, no tongues of fire, no rush of wind, nothing spectacular. If you want to know what I'll need for my Pentecost experience, well—small "value meals" for 100 children and elderly every time we hit the road, used clothing for the very young and the very old, intercessory prayers for the sick and the poor, and for the mission team, small alms or your "widow's mite" for our needs for the journey. I'll keep you updated every fortnight through this column.

Hey, this column, meaning **SIM**, is an important place to visit, *di ba* Pennie, Alya, Ruel, Eric, Chuchie and Shawie? Thank you without end! *(We love you too, Fr. V—SIM)*

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## End Page

By Jonathan Best

# On the Road with Dr. Nene Guevara

*When you think for a few moments about the fundamental importance of reading and writing, you realize Dr. Guevara and the Ford Foundation have focused on strengthening one of the essential building blocks of stable democratic society*

**ON first encounter, one might think Dr. Nene Guevara is a retiring sort of person. Despite the twinkle in her eye and sharp sense of humor, she does not appear to be the determined public servant her resumé reveals. Dr. Guevara started professional life as a public school teacher and worked her way up to become one of the Philippine's top economists, acquiring a Ph.D. in Public Finance and a University Degree in public education along the way. During the Ramos administration, she served as Undersecretary for Finance and helped the Philippines achieve four years of budget surpluses and economic stability. She fought tirelessly for honest tax reform and financial accountability on the part of the largest cigarette, petroleum, and alcohol companies. Needless to say Dr. Guevara was asked to resign from the government the first day of the Estrada administration.**

Her long career as a public servant and as a Catholic Lay Missionary in Tondo serves her well in her new role as a program officer with the Ford Foundation Philippines. Last month Dr. Guevara was on hand to officially launch new instructional manuals for day-care and first grade teachers in Nueva Vizcaya. This marked the halfway point in a P 35 million joint project of the Ford Foundation and the Provincial Government aimed at enhancing reading skills starting at the primary school level. Dr. Guevara graciously invited me to accompany her and her party up to Bayombong, the capital of Nueva Vizcaya, for the event. Chingkel T. Juan, Dr. Guevara's executive assistant and my partner John Silva accompanied us.

As an American writer who has been living in the Philippines for many years, I had mentioned to Dr. Guevara that I was curious to see how private American aid was being utilized to improve reading and writing skills. I expected to have to patiently sit through long financial reports and evaluations of test results and reading levels, and the inevitable requests for additional funding. However, I did want to visit Nueva Vizcaya for the first time and see how the foundation operates on the grass roots level, far from its elegant high-rise offices in New York and on Ayala Boulevard here in Manila.

Dr. Nene Guevara: building an educational constituency in Nueva Vizcaya

Our first morning in Bayombong, Governor Rudolfo Agbayani greeted us at the Provincial Capital at 7:30 sharp. We were invited to join the government employees as they lined up outside the capital building to sing the national anthem in the morning sunshine, listen to the governor speak and sing the Nueva Vizcaya provincial hymn. From there, the Governor whisked us to the Provincial Jail for a tour and a chance to watch the male prisoners as they sang the same anthems and made their prisoner's pledge for the day. Again, Dr. Guevara was asked to speak. She walked confidently into the midst of the assemble prisoners and chatted amicably with them.

From the prison, we moved directly to the local high school for the main event of the morning. This was the "Launching and Turnover Ceremony" before an assembly of more than 500 daycare and first grade teachers. Dr. Guevara explained to me that Nueva Vizcaya has 14 distinct tribal groups in addition to Ilocano immigrants from the northwest and Tagalogs from the south. The workers and teachers came from all over the province, some traveling as long as four days from remote upland barangays. I spotted many smiling faces, clearly descendants of the first Kalinga, Gaddang and Ifugao women who were photographed in that region by American anthropologists in the 19th century.

Teaching reading and writing may seem like a mundane problem to sophisticated Manila urbanites worrying about political intrigues, saving the environment or alleviating world poverty and overpopulation. When you think for a few moments about the fundamental importance of reading and writing, you realize Dr. Guevara and the Ford Foundation have wisely focused on strengthening one of the essential building blocks of stable democratic society. Without reading and writing skills a person cannot earn a decent living, feed their family and make informed and intelligent choices concerning the environment and their government. Dr. Guevara also oversees other basic education projects such as improving math skills in Bulacan and enhancing local governance in the Bicol region.

Dr. Guevara supported giving the Ford grant to the province of Nueva Vizcaya because it has provided clean and effective local government over the last several years. The province has received the Galing Pook Award twice for its efficiency in delivering services and Governor Agbayani, a Civil Service awardee himself, has endorsed the grant by agreeing to serve as its local project director. By the end of this year, the coordinators hope to establish 53 new daycare centers in upland barangays, introduce the kindergarten curriculum to existing centers and improve reading skills for all grade one and two pupils in the province.

Next week, Dr. Guevara will be off again inspecting another project, this time in Sorsogon, getting up at 4:30 a.m. to catch the first flight south to Legaspi. Her personal reward lies simply in seeing educational constituencies take root around the country and sharing the enthusiasm and joy of the children and their young teachers.

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*Comments welcome at <endpage2000@hotmail.com>*

# This Week

## Art

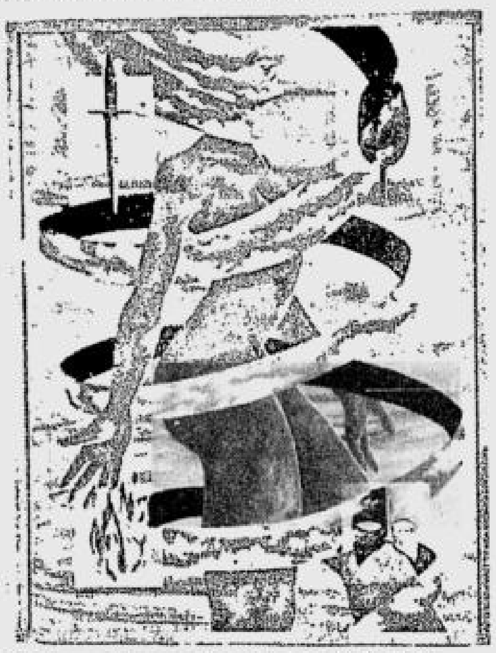
**Ina and the Bikol People**, an exhibit of centuries-old image of the Virgin of Peñafrancia and photographs of Bikol's way of life, ongoing at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City, from 9a.m. to 6 p.m. The exhibit will run until May 31. For details or bookings, please call Cecille at 8921801 or email events@fillib.org.ph.

**Seven-Eleven**, a multi-media project by six experimental artists, at The Landing, UP Vargas Museum until May 29. For inquiries, call Linda Pablco at 928-1927 or 920-5301 local 7408.

The Baguio City-based Tam-awan Village Artists' group exhibit, **Cordillera**, ongoing at the Hiraya Gallera, 530 UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila. Exhibit runs until May 30. For more information, call 523-3331 or email hiraya@infor.com.ph and visit the website http://www.hiraya.com.

**Toys**, an exhibition showcasing the works of five young artists from the University of the Philippines, is ongoing at the Ayala Museum and will run until May 31. The exhibit builds on the idea of toys as being a central part of each person's childhood experience. For inquiries, call 812-1131 to 95 local 103 or email at inquiry@ayalamuseum.com.

**AWECA Group: A Pacesetter in Furniture Export**, an exhibit and sale of world class furniture, accent pieces and accessories for homes and offices, until May 31 at the Ugnayan Hall of the Development Bank of the Philippines, Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City. For inquiries, call 815-0904 or 818-9511 loc. 2137.



**"Enigma Persona" by Roger "Rishab" Tibon on exhibit at Hiraya Gallery**

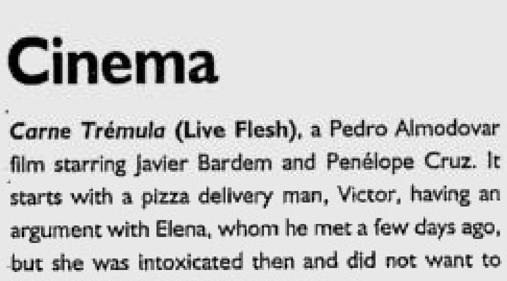
## Cinema

*Carne Trémula* **(Live Flesh)**, a Pedro Almodovar film starring Javier Bardem and Penélope Cruz. It starts with a pizza delivery man, Victor, having an argument with Elena, whom he met a few days ago, but she was intoxicated then and did not want to speak to him. Reacting to the noise, two cops, young David and older Sancho, arrive at the scene and a gun accidentally goes off. Four years later, David is a wheelchair basketball star and he is married to Elena. Victor is released from prison and their destinies begin to cross again. May 25, 5 p.m. at the Salón de Actos of Instituto Cervantes de Manila, 2515 Leon Guinto cor. Estrada Sts., Malate, Manila. For details, call 526-1482 to 85.

*Les Riviéres Pourpres* **(The Crimson Rivers)**, a suspense thriller about a leading serial killer investigator who is asked to look into a gruesome murder. He discovers clues that lead him to a string of homicides that are part of an immoral experiment, May 22, 8 p.m. at Alliance Francaise de Manille, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air, Makati. Free admission. For details, call 895-7585.

## Onstage

Dulaang Talyer will present ***Isang Buhay sa Tambakan***, a comedy of manners with music by National Artist for Theater/ Literature Rolando S. Tinio. The play will be onstage on May 22, 2002 8:30 p.m. at Sanctum, located at Chamber 9, Puerta Isabel II, Muralla St., Intramuros. For inquiries, call 415-6786 or e-mail dulaangtalyer@yahoo.com.



**Dulaang Talyer stages *Isang Buhay sa Tambakan***

## Food

Manila Galleria Suites in Ortigas Center presents a two-week **International Feast** at the hotel's Raphael Café-Restaurant until May 24. Taste the flavors of Europe with Bugottini Napoletan, mini Pizzas and Penne Rigata, then try the flavors of the Sea with Fried Pla-Pla, Breaded Mussels with Picanta Sauce and Lapu-lapu Escabeche. A staple Japanese corner also awaits diners. For reservations, call 633-7111 ext. 7440.

**Shanghai Express at New World Renaissance Hotel**

Enjoy the fresh and light flavors of seafood as Edsa Shangri-La's Garden Café presents **Seafood Splendor** until May 31. A special addition to the Asian/Continental lunch and dinner buffet is a grill station which includes imported lobsters prepared a la minute. For inquiries, call 633-8888 ext. 2738.

Experience an appetizing and authentic **Shanghainese cuisine** at the New World Renaissance Hotel from May 21 to June 2. There will be a daily lunch and dinner buffet at the hotel's various restaurants with a special dimsum menu at the Lobby Lounge. To complete the "Shanghai Express" tour, there will be an exhibit of exquisite furniture and rare Chinese objet d'art at the hotel lobby courtesy of Noble House Antiques. For details, call 811-6888.

## Atbp

The **Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts** located at the Bon Apetit, 3/F, Shangri-La Plaza Mall announces the following classes for this month: Pinoy Cocktails (May 20); Gourmet Pata (May 22); Pritchon Done My Way (May 24); Japanese Barbecue and Side Dishes (May 25); Sumptuous Caramel (May 27); Paella Filipina (May 29). For details, call 633-5162.

The School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies, DLSU-College of Saint Benilde, 2544 Taft Ave., Manila is offering **Filipino Sign Language Classes.** Enrollment from May 27-June 14. Interested applicants may inquire at the SDEAS Office at Room B105 and look for Rey Lee, coordinator, SLLP or Jackie Batac, SDEAS Office secretary or call 526-7441 to 47 loc.131.

Spend a musical Thursday morning at Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard as the **UP Concert Chorus** performs beautiful songs for museum visitors at the Karapatan Hall, May 23, 10 a.m.

The Development Consultants for Asia Africa Pacific is conducting a **Systematic Communication Management and Implementation workshop** from May 20-24 at the Bonifacio Hall, University of the Philippines, E. Jacinto St., Diliman, QC from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information, please call 926-9522, 926-7347 or email dcaap@pacific.net.ph or dcaap@mozcom.com.

Members of the Directors Guild of the Philippines will share their expertise and experience as resource persons in the **Basic and Advanced Workshops in Acting for TV and Film** at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Advanced Acting for TV and Film will be held on May 24-June 5. For more information, call Nikki Torres at 832-1125 local 1607 or Rocky Salvador at 832-3681 or 832-1125 local 1801-1806.

**Photojournalism: Finding the Perfect Moment,** an enlightening session with Steve Raymer, award-winning National Geographic magazine photographer, book author and academic, May 22 2-4 p.m. at the Dept. of Tourism Auditorium, T.M. Kalaw, Manila. Fee is P500 inclusive of light snack and certificate of attendance. For inquiries, call 813-7420 or 843-5341.

Viscomm's **Art Festival**, featuring lessons on painting using pastel, oil, acrylic, watercolor and charcoal, and lessons on sculpture and indigenous art. Courses are open to children and adults. Call 7407221 for details.

Learn the language that says something more in **Intro to Poetry Writing** on May 26 at the Loyola House, Ateneo de Manila University, QC. For details, call 285-2449.

PsychPros will hold a seminar-workshop on Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, **Empowering the AD/HD and the Family**, on May 23 at the MAB Hall, Ground Floor, Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue, QC. For inquiries, call 928-0878 or email propsych@edsamail.com.ph.

Learn more about figurine making, fiberglass, stained glass, lamination, encapsulation and synthetic granite in **Hands-on Introductory Course on Polyester Resin** on May 23-25. Call Polymer Products at 671-9837 for more details.

Adarna House mounts a workshop, giving lessons on **How to Illustrate Children's Books.** To be held at Adarna House, 73-A Scout Limbaga Street, Quezon City on May 25, 1-5 p.m. Admission fee to the workshops range from P50 to P100 only (materials included.) Limited slots only. For the complete calendar and for more details, visit www.adarna.com.ph or call 372-3548 or 410-5200 and look for Mabi or Allan.

Improve your health naturally through correct breathing using the **Buteyko Method.** Senior practitioner Jac Vidgen holds a free introductory lecture on May 25, at 4-6 p.m. at the Partnership Center, Loyola Heights, QC. Relieve symptoms of health problems, especially asthma, allergies, rhinitis, bronchitis, sleep and anxiety disorders, migraine, stress and hypertension. Call the Center for Health and Creative Arts (CHACRA) for workshop schedules and other details at 434-5381 or 0919-7091436, or e-mail chacracenter@yahoo.com.

The International Sheng Zhen Society will launch the updated version of Sheng Zhen Healing Qigong and Wuju Yuan Gong, now known as **A Return to Oneness**, at Powerbooks on Arnaiz Avenue in Makati. Li Jun Feng, master and head of the Society, will come to Manila especially for the event. For details, call 671-1899 or e-mail pubdept@anvil.com.ph.

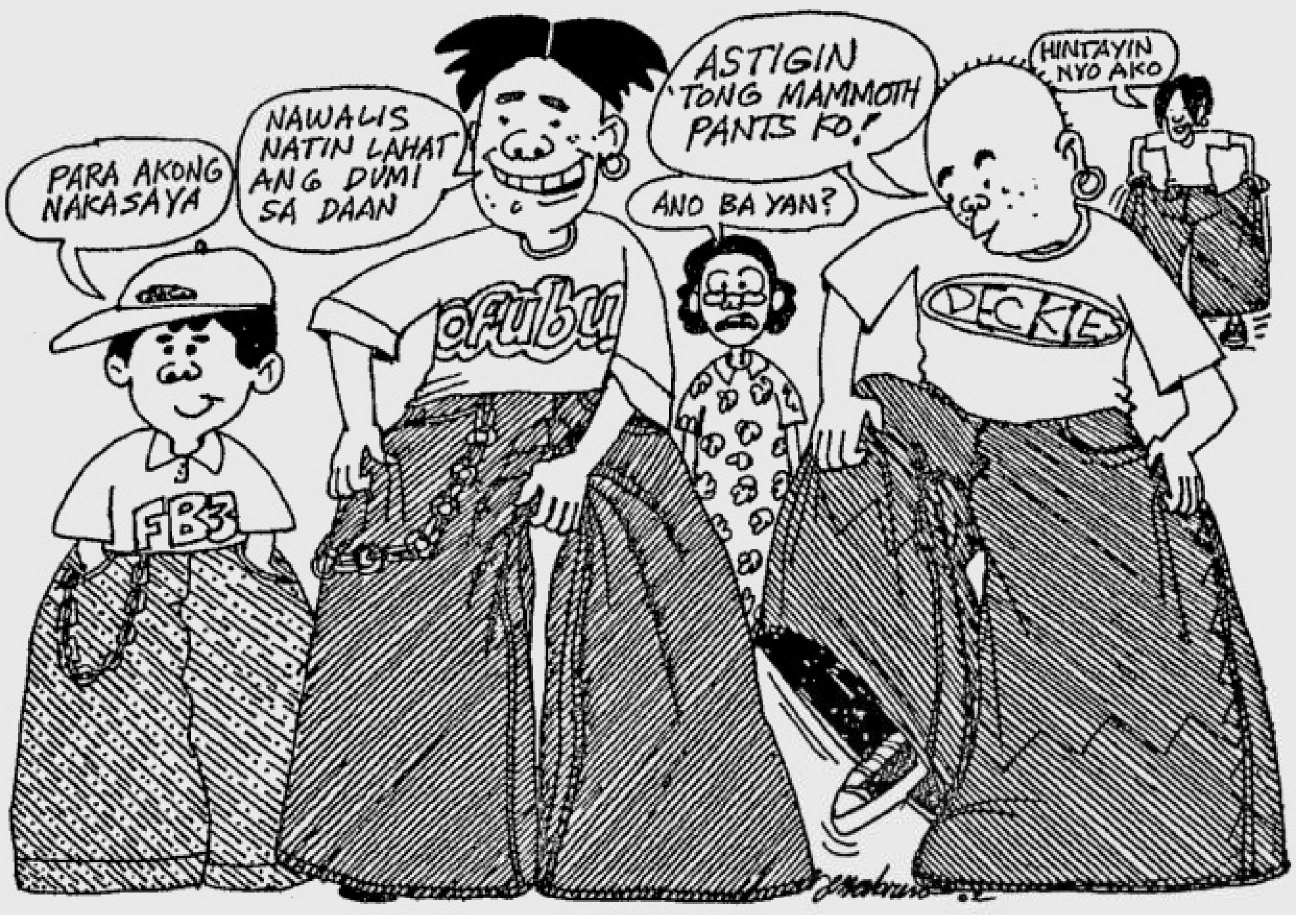
The Peninsula Manila, in cooperation with events organizer Rita Neri of The Wedding Store, presents **2002 Events at the Pen** on May 24-25 at The Rigodon Ballroom, The Upperm Lobby and The Gallery. Featuring the best and exclusive corporate and social events organizers and planners in the Philippines, it will be capped by two fashion shows on May 25 at The Rigodon Ballroom, at 4 and 7 p.m. For more information, contact The Peninsula Manila at 887-2888 loc. 2236 and 2914 or the Wedding Store at 893-0534 or 840-1897.

The alumni of the **UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Class of 1973** meet every second Friday of the month in preparation for their 30th anniversary. Contact persons are Leonora "Peachie" Pechardo (924-8120; Ramon Rocamora (0918-9005443); Edna Perez (845-4129); Edna Rose Villanueva (746-5075); Peng Hilario (411-5334); Rosario Nolasco (687-3476) and Hessie Malillin (713-6283).

## Pinoy NGA!

By Jess Abrera

### Elephant Pants


PARA AKONG NAKASAYA
NAWALIS NATIN LAHAT ANG DUMI SA DAAN
ASTIGIN 'TONG MAMMOTH PANTS KO!
ANO BA YAN?
HINTAYIN NYO AKO
FB3
FUBU
DECKIES

## X-manila

**Busto Unplugged** features free standing and hanging sculpture pieces from Rogger Basco's "Basta Busto" in CCP last year plus five new works, until May 30 at kinderdorf room-turned-gallery in Banaybanay, Lipa City. For details, call 756-1192.

**Hoy Hudas, Feeling Bida ka na naman, Ano! (Isang Kakaibang Sinakulo)**, written and directed by Louie Sevilla, will be re-staged at Sta. Cruz, Laguna today at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. For details, call (049) 810-0440 or 0917-6652388.

The second **training for Values Integration and Promotion as a Civic Welfare Service** (VIP-CWS) for the National Service Training Program (NTSP) will be held on May 27-31 at the CEC, UPLB campus, Los Baños, Laguna. Male and female students of any baccalaureate degree course or technical-vocational course in public or private educational institutions are encouraged to participate in the VIP-CWS Qualifying Course to be conducted by Dr. Vivian Gonzales. For details, call (049) 539-5535.

**Dr. Vivian Gonzales, training trainors at the VIP-CWS Qualifying Course**

## A Homecoming

**Maningning Miclat**

**The Cultural Center of the Philippines presents *"Pag-uwi/Pag-iiwi,* Homecoming/ Coming Home," featuring Maningning Miclat's 44 x 8" mural titled "Soliloquy" at the CCP Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo until May 31. First exhibited at the CCP's Pasilyo Carlos V. Francisco in 1994-95 as a single two-panel piece, this large-scale painting has just undergone three months of restoration by artist-restorer Lazaro "Aro" Soriano, assisted by Chato Galang. The exhibit marks the start of a silent bidding for the outright sale or lease of this major painting by Miclat, according to Maningning Miclat Art Foundation Inc. treasurer Leonardo Ramos. The proceeds will fund MMAFI projects such as a planned Maningning Miclat Award for poetry and painting for artists and poets 28 years old and younger.**

### For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

**The Sunday Inquirer Magazine** welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

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Computer Engineering
Computer Fundamentals/Basic Programming
Dental Assistant
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Dressmaking/Pattern-Cutting & Design
Effective English
Electric Motor Repairman
Electronic Instrumentation & Control
Electronic Service Technician
Electronics Engineering
English Proficiency & Speech Improvement
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Mechanical Engineering

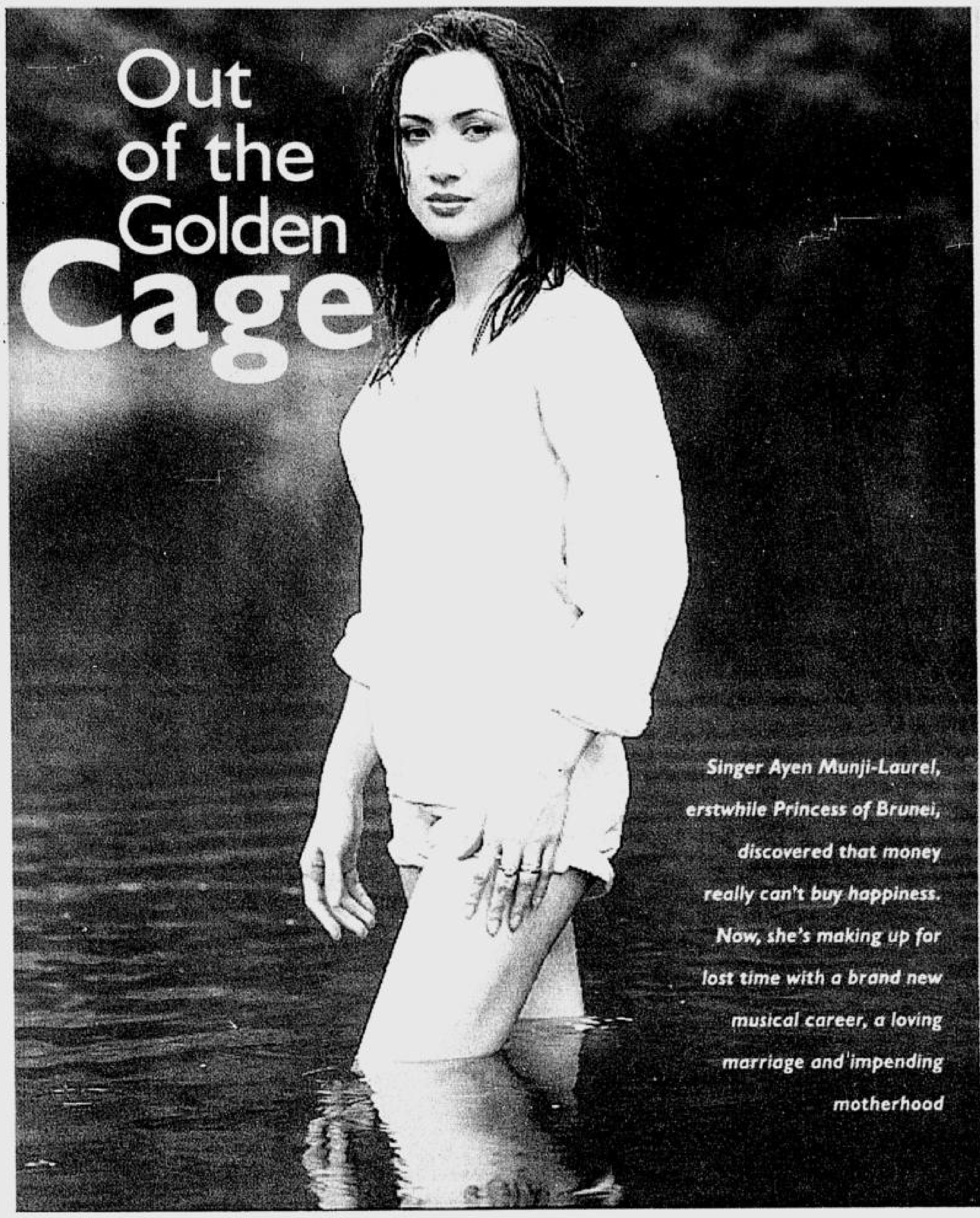
HIGH SCHOOL (YEAR 1 TO 4)

**Celebrities**

*By Tinna S. Bonifacio*

# Out of the Golden Cage

*Singer Ayen Munji-Laurel, erstwhile Princess of Brunei, discovered that money really can't buy happiness. Now, she's making up for lost time with a brand new musical career, a loving marriage and impending motherhood*



RAYMUND ISAAC

**MOST of us read about princesses only in fairy tales, but Ayen Munji-Laurel has actually been one.**

The petite 23-year-old singer, who bears a strong resemblance to actress Ina Raymundo, used to be the fourth wife of Prince Jeffrey Bolkiah, the youngest brother of the Sultan of Brunei.

"'Pretty Woman' was nothing," she says of the life she led in Brunei, where she had more than 60 servants to wait on her, where she had all the jewelry, shoes and clothes she wanted, and where she even had her own home theater. As a princess (and reportedly the most-loved of the Prince's four wives, since he came home to her every night), Ayen had unlimited power, money and prestige. If she felt like shopping for an Armani or Prada, she simply had to tell her secretary, who would call the store, and they would send over merchandise for the Princess to choose from. "*Sobrang* comfortable *ang buhay ko doon*."

It was the life every girl dreams of. But once the novelty of being a princess and all that wealth wore off, and once troubles in her marriage began to set in, Ayen felt restless.

Of course, that didn't come right away. At the start, Ayen felt the way any new wife feels. "He didn't give me a hard time," she says of her ex-husband, whom she met when she performed in a show at the Brunei Country Club in 1993. The Prince was smitten, and showered Ayen with attention and gifts. At first Ayen was shocked and insisted that the Prince's emissary take it back. She did not want people thinking that she was entertaining the Prince's attentions because of the money. "Please, madam," the emissary begged. "Please take it, or I will lose my job."

She did. That gift was followed by others, including a flawless 10-carat diamond engagement ring. Finally, the Prince won over Ayen. She agreed to marry him, and that marriage lasted seven years. "He was very kind and loving in the beginning. Very generous *din siya*. I didn't have a hard time adjusting to that life because I was determined to be happy."

The life of a Princess seemed easy enough to live on the surface, but adjusting required a lot of sacrifice, says Ayen. For someone who started performing at 16 and was used to the carefree life, becoming a Princess meant adopting a more restricted routine. "I was not allowed to do a lot of things. I had to convert to Islam, although I did not practice it. During religious occasions, I had to cover my head. In dressing up, I was not allowed to show much skin. My parents, sisters, and friends could still visit me, but visits were restricted. My life lost its freedom and spontaneity."

When she agreed to marry the Prince, Ayen had some idea of what she was entering into. "Of course I had to know the situation. I had to prepare my mind and heart for it. I knew he had three other wives. In fact, his third wife was a Filipina with whom he had four children. I knew of her, but we were never formally introduced."

According to Ayen, the four wives of the Prince each had their own houses, were well provided for, and generally led separate lives. The first wife lived in Brunei, along with the third wife, and Ayen. The second wife lived in Los Angeles. But as the fourth and, according to Muslim tradition, the last wife, Ayen spent the most time with him and was with him every night.

Not all of the seven years that she was married to the Prince were unhappy. It only began to sour when she discovered that her husband was having an affair with one of their employees, a Japanese-American girl.

"At first, I thought I could take being the fourth wife, *pero habang tumatagal, nagiging mas masakit pala* (but as time passed, it became more painful)," relates Ayen. "Then I learned that there was another woman. It was all over the papers. Naturally, my husband didn't tell me about it."

At the time, Ayen was in Manila, producing the musical "Rama *at* Sita." It was where she would meet her present husband Franco, but that's getting ahead of the story. When Ayen found out that the Prince was having an affair, she had it out with him via a long-distance call. She picked up her cellular phone, went out the back entrance of the UP Theater where they were rehearsing, and started screaming at her husband.

"I was hysterical when I confronted him on the phone," admits Ayen. "And what's worse was, he admitted it! He didn't even try to deny it. He just kept saying, 'Sorry. Sorry.' I was so upset that I told him I wasn't coming back to Brunei."

The Prince tried to win her back the same way he won her the first time, with attention and lavish gifts. But they no longer had an effect on Ayen. "I was never materialistic in the first place. Like any woman, I love shoes, bags, and clothes, but I'm not attached to them. He did beg me to stay, he tried winning me back. But it was all so superficial."

ROMY HOMILLADA

Ayen: "This is the completion of everything"

Still, Ayen flew back to Brunei after three or four months of cooling off in Manila. At the back of her mind was this nagging thought that maybe, just maybe, the two of them could work things out. But she didn't have to stay long to realize that the marriage was truly over. "I knew it was over when I found myself longing for a companion. Not so much in the physical sense, but someone to be with you, someone who would be there for you. I was missing the companionship that was present in the early part of our marriage. I was married, but I felt so alone."

Turning her back on a life of wealth, power and prestige became easier when her family and friends supported her decision 100 percent. Says Ayen, "I feel so blessed having people who understood me, and understood how lonely I was despite being surrounded by all that luxury. I never heard anything from my family. It was from the people I didn't know that I heard harsh words. I wanted to tell them that it's not the money, the traveling or the wealth that counts. All that is worth nothing if you face yourself in the mirror every morning and you're not happy. The money may make you happy for a while, but it won't last."

At that point, Ayen was far from happy. She felt caged. "In a way, my life was like a golden cage," she says. "We started out happy, but somewhere along the way, he changed."

So Ayen left, taking the two kids with her to New York, where she lived for a year. Eventually, she came back to the only place that was home to her: the Philippines. In April last year, she was officially divorced from the Prince. "I asked for the divorce," she reveals. "He struggled with the idea, but then at the end of April, he finally gave it to me."

Franco Laurel played the role of Bharata, the brother of Rama in "Rama at Sita." Ironically, Franco was the very last person to get cast in the musical, but he ended up walking away with the biggest, most important role of all, as Ayen's husband.

He laughs when he recalls their first meeting. "Her staff (at SK Entertainment, producers of 'Rama at Sita') told me to come to the cast party *kasi gusto daw makilala* ni 'Madam' *yung mga nasa* cast. When I heard the word 'Madam,' I had this vision of a *matrona* with big hair!"

Franco found himself mesmerized by the woman everyone called "Madam," this petite woman with a short, chic hairdo. The only thing that identified her as royalty to him was the amount of jewelry she wore. "Then one of her staff told me, 'Madam is the Princess of Brunei.' She was still married to the Prince at the time. I was completely speechless!"

The two became very good friends. Eventually, Ayen began confiding in him, and vice versa. They knew their relationship had progressed to the next level when Franco dropped the "Madam" and started calling her "M," as in M. Butterfly. One day, they just realized that they were in love. In 2000, they got married.

Now, Ayen is four months pregnant with their first child. If it's a boy, they are going to name him Jose Franco, to be called Pepe for short. Pepe was also the nickname of Franco's great-grandfather, Jose P. Laurel. If the child is a girl, she will be called Maria Angia Ylleana, or Angia for short.

The couple and the two kids live in a three-storey home that takes up a whole block in posh Ayala Alabang. It has a heated swimming pool, an outdoor jacuzzi and centralized air-conditioning. The house is manned by 20 servants, including the drivers, security guards and *yayas*.

We could not resist asking: Did the Prince pay for the house? No, says Ayen with a straight face. "I paid for it from my savings. I invested my money in various businesses—SK Entertainment, real estate, *kaya may naipon ako*. And that's what I used to buy this house."

Scattered about the house are some things that Ayen brought with her from her house in Brunei, like a few samples of pottery, an incense burner, and a gold tissue box holder with what look like diamonds embedded in it. Yes, the story is true. The tissue itself only cost P28.15 (we checked), but the holder, which is heavy, cost much, much more.

Now that she's on her own, Ayen has reclaimed her life. She has a new self-titled album that features her in a duet with Franco. Not that she needs the money; it's just that she is eager to return to her first love: singing. The album will be launched in an exclusive, by-invitation-only concert at the Music Museum on the 29th of the month.

Franco, too, has come out with his own album. He says that Ayen is supporting him like any wife would support her husband, but takes exception to criticism that he is living off his wife. "I don't want to sound *mayabang*, but I can say that I'm a self-made man," says Franco. "I worked hard to get to where I am. Ayen is supporting my career, but as any wife would. Financially, I am being supported by my own production outfit (FRL Productions, which is owned by his mother Felicia Reyes-Laurel). I may not be as wealthy as the Prince, and Ayen is definitely richer than me, but I also buy things for her, and I'm capable of supporting her and the kids. Just maybe not at the same level as she's been used to."

Looking back, Ayen says that she is not ashamed of her "colorful" past. Everything she has been through has played a part in making her the contented woman she is today. "I'm not ashamed of anything," she says. "I've learned a lot, and all of it made me a better person."

There was a time she wasn't happy. Is she happy now? "Oh yes," sighs Ayen contentedly. "I'm very happy, especially now that I have my album and now that I'm going to have a baby. This is the completion of everything."